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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Public Law 106--81st Congress

Chapter 220--1st Session

H. R. 4263

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Digest of Public Law 106 1

Index and Summary of History on H. R. 4263 1

DIGEST OF PUBLIC LAW 106

INSECT CONTROL. H. R. 4263 amends section 102(a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, wheat-stem sawfly, oriental fruitfly, and the Hall scale.

INDEX AND SUMMARY OF HISTORY ON H. R. 4263.

April 14, 1949	H. R. 4263 was introduced by Rep. Bentsen and was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. Print of the bill as introduced.
May 2, 1949	S. 1749 was introduced by Senator Thomas and was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Print of the bill as introduced. (Companion bill).
May 11, 1949	Hearings: House, H. R. 4263.
May 19, 1949	Senate Committee reported S. 1749 with amendments. Senate Report 408. Print of the bill as reported.
May 20, 1949-	House Committee reported H. R. 4263 without amendment. House Report 645. Print of the bill as reported.
May 23, 1949	Senate discussed and passed S. 1749 as reported.
June 6, 1949	House discussed and passed H. R. 4263 with amendments.
June 10, 1949	Senate discussed and passed H. R. 4263 without amendment.
June 17, 1949	Approved. Public Law 106.

81st CONGRESS
1st SESSION

H. R. 4263

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 1949

Mr. BENTSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (Act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147 a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly" immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4263

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

By Mr. BENTSEN

APRIL 14, 1949
Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1749

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (Act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringe beetle, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly," immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1749

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

By Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma

MAY 2 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

CITRUS BLACKFLY, WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE, AND THE HALL SCALE

HEARINGS

BEFORE

SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 OF
THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. R. 4263

MAY 11, 1949

Serial AA

Printed for the use of the Committee on Agriculture

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
95597 WASHINGTON : 1949

THE CITRUS BLACKFLY, WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE, AND THE HALL SCALE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1949

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C.

Subcommittee No. 2 met at 10 a. m., Hon. George M. Grant (chairman) presiding.

Mr. GRANT. The committee will please be in order.

We are taking up at this time H. R. 4263, a bill introduced by Mr. Bentsen, of Texas, to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry ont operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

(H. R. 4263 follows:)

[H. R. 4263, 81st Cong., 1st sess.]

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STATEMENT OF HON. LLOYD M. BENTSEN, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. GRANT. We have a full report here from the Department of Agriculture under date of April 18, 1949, which I will ask a little later on be inserted in the record.

This is a short bill, introduced by Congressman Bentsen, and, Congressman, we will be glad to have you explain the purposes of the bill at this time.

Mr. BENTSON. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, this is enabling legislation that has been requested by the Department of Agriculture and the State Department to authorize research work to be done in Mexico on the blackfly.

We have the full cooperation of the Mexican Government, and with your permission I would like to introduce into the record at this point a letter from the Mexican Ambassador in which he states he has asked the State Department to convey to the Department of

Agriculture his Government's request for assistance to stamp out the dreaded citrus blackfly which unfortunately is attacking the citrus plantations throughout Mexico. It says: "I hope you will be successful in your undertaking."

(The letter referred to follows:)

RAFAEL DE LA COLINA,
AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO,
Washington, D. C., April 4, 1949.

The Honorable LLOYD M. BENTSEN, Jr.,
The House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. BENTSEN: With reference to our recent conversation I am glad to inform you that on February 12, 1949, I asked the Department of State to convey to the Department of Agriculture my Government's request for assistance to stamp out the dreaded citrus blackfly which unfortunately is attacking citrus plantations throughout Mexico.

I hope you will be successful in your undertaking.

Thanking you in advance for all your courtesies and attention to this matter, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

RAFAEL DE LA COLINA.

I have also a letter from the Department of Agriculture of the State of California attesting to the seriousness of the blackfly, and with your permission I would like to include that letter in the record.

Mr. GRANT. Without objection it will be made a part of the record.

(The letter referred to follows:)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
April 22, 1949.

Hon. THOMAS H. WERDEL,
Congressional Representative,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. WERDEL: This will acknowledge and thank you for the brief covering the citrus blackfly in Mexico prepared by Mr. Charles A. Wasman, president of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce and transmitted with your letter of April 14.

We fully recognize the seriousness of this insect as a pest of citrus in Mexico, and have reason to believe it would be equally serious in our own orchards should it find its way here. We have also been concerned with the rapidity with which it has been spreading northward toward our national border from Valles on the east coast and Empalme on the west coast. The Blackfly has never been found in California but since it is in Mexico within 300 miles of the international border, and should it cross into some other State, then only our quarantine inspection service could stop its entry into California. Because of its known destructiveness, we fully endorse any reasonable request for funds to be used in preventing or delaying its spread into the country.

The Texas growers have more direct reason to be alarmed as they would be the first to become affected due to their close proximity to the presently infested area. I believe we should support them in every way possible in trying to prevent the entry of the fly into their State. As they bring out in the brief, it is far better to expend money in trying to keep such pests limited to the areas in which they already occur rather than later expend many times that amount annually in fighting it after it has gained entrance to our orchards. Prior to its appearance on the semiarid west coast in Mexico, the activity of the fly was assumed to be restricted to more humid areas. The contrary has proved true. Observations show it to be equally if not more injurious to citrus groves under climatic conditions such as ours in California. Aside from the actual losses which might result from its attack, its introduction would add tremendously to our already burdensome citrus pest control costs.

As Mr. Wasman points out, California growers became sufficiently alarmed last season with respect to the infestation at Empalme and nearby Guaymas to approve, through their fruit growers exchange, $25,000 of their own money to be used in an attempt to eradicate the infestation at those two points. By so doing they hoped to widen the clean area lying between there and the border as

a protection against further spread to the north. Our department loaned one of its entomologists, who has had eonsiderable experienee in eitrus white fly eradieation in California, to assist in this effort in an advisory eapaeity. These activities were intended to be a stop-gap measure until sueh time as the Federal Government eould step in. At the present time Mr. A. P. Messenger, ehief of our Bureau of Plant Quarantine, is in Mexieo with Federal and Mexican agrieultural representatives viewing the situation first hand.

We have already had an expensive experienee with the eitrus white fly a closely related speeies with habits similar to the eitrus blackfly.

The aetion of the blaekfly is causing total erop losses in the absenee of expensive eontrol measures seems not to be exaggerated. This, together with the fact that eitrus is a major erop in California, justifies our full support of the program outlined by the Texas eitrus growers.

The Mexiean authorities seem to be fully alert to the situation and finaneing control measures to the limit of their ability. It is noted that the Texas authorities are assuming responsibility for a material inerease in their border inspection force to prevent the entranee aeross the borders of infested host plants. Our own interests in the situation are sueh, as previously stated, that we should give full support to providing sueh Federal funds as ean be expended effectively in preventing or delaying the entry of this inseet into this eountry.

We believe there are a number of California organizations that are seriously interested in this problem, and we wonder if we may refer your brief to them or whether you wish it returned to you immediately.

Very sincerely yours,

A. A. Brock, *Director.*

Mr. Bentsen. First, to tell you something about what the blackfly is: It is an insect that I suppose would resemble caviar, although it is much more expensive than fish eggs, from reports, would be. The blackfly is an insect that attaches itself to the leaves of the citrus trees, and sucks the sap from the leaves so the trees will not bear.

This fly was first found some 17 months ago in the Valles District, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. This area is 292 air miles south of the Texas border.

Since it was found, in October 1948—since the infestation was found just south of the city of Valles, in January of 1949 it was found it had moved 40 miles up to the north, 30 miles south and some distance east.

Since this insect was found some 17 months ago, the fly has moved from the southern part of Mexico until it is now covering some 10 States. I saw myself orchards that had been infested with the insect that had 30,000 trees in them, and I do not think they would bear 30,000 separate pieces of fruit.

Mr. Grant. What kind of orchards?

Mr. Bentsen. These were citrus orchards.

We find that this fly is also carried by 160 host plants. It is most difficult to combat. They have found from experience that it is transported by automobile, by passing through the area. It is also capable of flying. And, it has moved from the eastern area of Mexico on over opposite the border of south Texas.

To treat this pest with tested treatments that have proved to be effective would cost almost $100 an acre if it gets into our area, which is a prohibitive cost, and is also injurious to the trees.

There are two means of combating this fly: One is by spraying, and the other by parasite. The Department of Agriculture has found a parasite that seems to be effective in combating the spread of this pest, but because of the climate we have they have been unable to get the parasite to function properly.

So, the biggest problem we have is for research to be done to find a more effective means of combating the fly. At the present time we

have three employees of the Department of Agriculture who are working at Valles, Mexico, on research. But they are so handicapped by the limited staff that they are unable to even find the limits of the infestation of this fly. And so we know it will be much closer than they have found so far.

I would like to show you a map of Mexico showing where the fly is found at the present time. This map indicates the Mexican-Texas border. This is what we know to be the infested area [indicating] 292 air miles south of the border, at Valles. And the infestation actually has moved over into this area [indicating] but they have been unable up to this time to do even that study, to find out how far it has gone, because of the limitation of facilities, and because the citrus area through here [indicating] is subject to infestation.

In the last few years this Citrus Belt, in the lower Rio Grande Valley, has had a phenomenal growth. I would like to quote some of the figures as showing the agricultural production in the four counties in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

In 1945 we had $135,000,000 worth of agricultural products in those four counties; in 1946, $135,000,000, and in 1947, $129,000,000.

If this blackfly gets into this area it could destroy this agricultural production.

Mr. GATHINGS. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Mr. Bentsen might be permitted to insert the chart in the record, if that can be arranged.

Mr. BENTSEN. I think it can be.

I have a complete brief here on the blackfly, which I will be very glad to submit for the record or to the members of the committee.

These people in the valley are much concerned with the blackfly. They have organized committees throughout the valley; they have made numerous trips down here at their own expense, and they have hired experts to make the study. Because of the critical need the State legislature is appropriating $40,000 to carry on emergency work until we get Federal aid. They do not put a question mark in front of that and say "If we get Federal aid," but they say "Until we get Federal aid," so you see the job that I have before me. They feel that it is in the public welfare, and I am in full agreement with them.

The State of California has interested itself through legislation to carry on this fight.

Florida had an infestation some years ago when we had to spend, I understand, several million dollars in a small area that was infested with this blackfly before we could get it eradicated.

I believe that this will be money well spent; it will save millions of dollars if we are able to conduct research and find a practical means of eradicating the fly.

The Mexican Government is cooperating 100 percent on this fight, but they lack the technical men to do the work. At the present time they have imposed a tax on gasoline, for all gasoline in this infested area, and every bit of that tax is to be used on blackfly research.

They also have imposed a tax on every tree, of 10 centavos, to be used in fighting the blackfly. While I was there I saw men using bulldozers, taking out trees that had already become infected, in the hope of combating the blackfly.

The money that we are asking for, if we are able to receive this enabling legislation, will be expended for basic research, and inspection. And at the present time we have spots along the south Texas border

where we have quarantine inspection, but this blackfly can be brought across, and it just has to get started in one place to get away from us.

At the present time, what means have we to combat it? The feeling is that we should have some men first to make a survey to determine the limits of the infestation. Now, we did have this program under way, and there was appropriated $100,000 for last year, and they received the money toward the end of the season and spent $15,000, and had $85,000 left to carry it through June of this year. But for some reason the Bureau of the Budget felt that this was a new item—there were a number of other new items—and they cut it off entirely. They have asked us to go ahead and try to get enabling legislation.

The Department of Agriculture, from my conferences with them, is fully behind this effort, as is shown in the report from the Secretary.

Mr. ABBITT. Under what authority did they make the previous appropriation?

Mr. BENTSEN. I am not familiar with that. I was not here last year.

The Mexican Government has already placed blocks along the road to check movement, in order to get a better inspection, but because of the transportation of fruits and plants along the border we feel that we should stretch the quarantine along the United States border.

Mr. DAGUE. Do you know under what legislation the white-fringed-beetle work is carried on?

Mr. BENTSEN. No; they evidently do some work in the Department and in other areas.

If there are any questions in regard to this I would be most happy to try to answer them.

Mr. GRANT. As I understand, Mr. Bentsen, there is basic legislation for the work on the white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale, and this is just to supplement it?

Mr. BENTSEN. Yes.

Mr. GRANT. Thank you very much for you statement, Mr. Bentsen. Are there any questions by members of the committee?

Mr. GATHINGS. Mr. Bentsen, do you think $100,000 a year would be an adequate appropriation?

Mr. BENTSEN. No; it has not been. I have a detailed list of what we think should be done; how the money should be used, and what additional research work should be carried on.

Under the present program, as I told you, they only have three men. And I talked to one of the men in the area, and he told me one of the things needed was more adequate research. He was using a microscope, examining some of the leaves which showed quite a number of black flies on it. And he said:

> My experience and training is such that I should be engaged in doing other work but I have no assistants, and I have to do this work myself.

Mr. GATHINGS. When they attack the leaf on the tree, what is the result? Does it lower the production some 50 percent, or 75 percent, or what?

Mr. BENTSEN. I would say it lowers it 99.9 percent; the production. The tree looks healthy. It is dark green, but it will not bear fruit.

Mr. LYLE. It just wipes it out; sterilizes it.

Mr. BENTSEN. And I have talked to interested members from California, Arizona, Florida, and Texas, who have citrus areas, and without

exception those whom I have talked to have some knowledge of the blackfly, and are seriously concerned in support of the legislation.

Mr. GRANT. Thank you very much.

We also have Congressman John Lyle, from Texas, who is very much interested in this. Would you care to make a statement?

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN E. LYLE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. LYLE. I do not think I can enlarge on the statement except perhaps to call your attention to this particular insect which more or less operates on the tree like the virus does on the cow in hoof-and-mouth disease; completely wipes it out. While it does not kill the tree, it is insidious in that the tree is no longer useful. It completely sterilizes it. We feel we are practically lost if we ever permit this bug to get into the United States.

Mr. DAGUE. The tree can be saved, can it?

Mr. LYLE. I think so, but it is terribly expensive. It is not even sure that is what they want to do. Principally, I think they want to first be sure that all of the ports of entry are properly manned. We have local people doing that now from local funds. We have State funds, but you know how inadequate that is, and they need to man all of these ports of entry, the airports, even perhaps it will have to go as far as Houston, where there is a port of entry. That is for inspection there.

Mr. DAGUE. That is a quarantine?

Mr. LYLE. Quarantine, yes; and that will take a great deal of money. Then they must try to find some, completely exhaust the research on the host elements, or what brings them over, and then they will need considerable money to research and develop.

Mr. GATHINGS And surveys, too.

Mr. LYLE. And surveys. They do not even know where all of the infection is today, and then one of the elements is that they will try to find then some insect that will live in the infected area that can kill the pest.

Mr. DAGUE. You spoke of the black wasp. Is that the same type that preys on the Japanese beetle?

Mr. LYLE. This is a South American wasp. It almost lives in that country. It is an insect. It does not live there too well. A few years ago I took my bride and built a new home. We found stinging scorpions in the bathroom every day. She was horrified to find that. Everything lives in that country. It is semitropical. We have a hard time fighting insects and virus infections down there. It takes a lot of money and research, but if we are able to conquer this type of thing, it will be worth literally millions to this country, because if the valley fruit crop was wiped out, it would be a major tragedy for the Nation, I would say.

Mr. GATHINGS. I believe Mr. Bentsen stated this was a blackfly, this particular fly. What do you call it?

Mr. LYLE. It is called Aluracanthus Woglumi.

Mr. GATHINGS. It has expanded over about 10 States?

Mr. BENTSEN. From 1935 to today, it has moved from 1 State to 10 States, and unless you think that this is gong to cost a fabulous sum, we made a very careful study of this, and we believe allocating

so much money to research and to inspections and determining the limits of the infestation and all, it will cost approximately $250,000.

Mr. GATHINGS. How long do you think it would take to wipe out this insect?

Mr. BENTSEN. Of course, it is just a guess, but we hope in 2 or 3 years. Now, this doctor who has been on the job down there told me that he had some interesting results on a new type of dust that he was trying to perfect, and hoped that that might be the answer to it. But we need to follow it on through, and with sufficient money behind this program I believe that we should be able to get the solution to it in not too long a time.

Mr. GRANT. Thank you very much, gentlemen.

We have Mr. Rohwer from the Department of Agriculture whom we would be glad to hear at this time.

Mr. GATHINGS. In view of the importance of this subject matter, I would like to ask that that be incorporated in the record, if it is not too lengthy. Do you think, Mr. Lyle and Mr. Bentsen, that certain parts of it are more pertinent?

Mr. LYLE. There are a number of newspaper articles that would not be too pertinent. There are many parts of it that would be very useful to you. There are some that are newspaper articles that are not pertinent.

Mr. BENTSEN. That will be made a part of the record.

(The information is as follows:)

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Rio Grande Valley, Tex., March 18, 1949.

Hon. LLOYD M. BENTSEN, Jr.,
Representative, Fifteenth Congressional District of Texas,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. BENTSEN: This brief is presented to you for the purpose of keeping you fully advised on the spread and serious menace of the citrus blackfly (Aluracanthus Woglumi) that was located some 17 months ago in the Valles territory, State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. This area is 292 air-line miles south of Brownsville, Tex.

From the time of the infestation in Valles, one of the major projects of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce has been to secure a constant supply of information on the progress of the infestation, the control methods being employed, and the damage caused by the pest.

In October of 1948, upon the request of numerous citrus growers of the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, both large and small, the valley chamber of commerce organized a committee known as the blackfly committee. Its sole purpose being to evaluate the threat of the Texas citrus industry, and to make recommendations to the board of directors of the valley chamber of commerce. Their program of work has dealt with control measures, quarantine personnel required to adequately and properly do the work to insure protection from this dreaded insect to the citrus industry, and in fact to the citrus industries of the several citrus-producing States.

In order to obtain a proper cross section of opinion, 38 qualified men engaged in the citrus industry were taken to Valles in October of 1948 on an inspection trip for educational purposes, into the infested areas. Doctor Cooper and Mr. Stone, from the United States Department of Agriculture laboratory in Mexico City, and Mr. C. O. Peterson, in charge of the work in Valles, conducted the party on a tour through the infested areas. The valley growers who made this original trip were appalled at the wholesale destruction caused by this pest.

Climatic conditions in the Valles area of Mexico are favorable to the fly and its growth. In October 1948, the infestation was in an area directly around the south of the city of Valles. In January 1949, on a second trip conducted by the valley chamber of commerce, a survey report was made by Mr. C. O. Peterson, United States Department of Agriculture, inspector in charge, placing the lines of infestation 60 miles north of Valles, 40 miles west of Valles, 30 miles south of

Valles, and to Tampico on the east. This represents the extent of the area surveyed. Other infestations were known to be on the Golfo de California, in the States of Durango, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero, Morelos, Mayarit, and Sonora, Mexico. This information was given to us by the Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, and later confirmed by those working with the United States Department of Agriculture in Mexico.

On a trip recently made on February 27, 1949, we found that the blackfly has advanced northward toward the fertile lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, to a point approximately 5 miles south of Ciudad el Mante. As you can see, there is a gradual northward movement of this insect. It is possible that there could be additional infestations. With this tremendous spread of the infestation from October through February, it seems reasonable to assume that the infestation is not under control, and the blackfly is far from being eradicated or controlled. Research work seems to indicate that the present methods of control may not be adequate. We believe the blackfly is migrating through the transportation of citrus stock as well as 160 other known carriers of the fly, on which the life cycle of the fly is completed on 73 of the known carriers. It is also possible, in our opinion, that the insect may be transported in automobiles that have stopped in the infested areas. Likewise, it is reasonable to assume that until an adequate research has been made and carriers established, it would be advisable to use every precaution at our command.

Adult blackflies have been picked up at border stations in the Rio Grande Valley several times in recent months on importations of limes. The valley chamber of commerce feels that this menace to the citrus and agriculture industry of the valley is a serious threat to the basic economy of all industry in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and to all agriculture of the entire southern part of the United States.

The blackfly committee of the lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce, a qualified group of eight men organized to study the situation as it now exists, have taken the following actions in combating this blackfly infestation:

1. Raised funds to make a study, pay transportation in making our survey of the actual conditions in Mexico, and for the purpose of getting immediate temporary relief from the State of Texas. These funds were raised in a joint action by the county governments of Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo Counties. It was the feeling of the committee that this would be the only fair and equitable means of providing the necessary funds, since such a great part of the valley area is almost entirely dependent on agriculture.

2. Through excursions into the blackfly area, educated the growers of the State of Texas on the peril this insect holds for citrus.

3. Appealed to the State of Texas, through the Honorable Beauford Jester, Governor, for emergency legislation to provide funds for the employment of inspectors to supplement and assist inspectors of the United States Department of Agriculture at ports of entry and road stations, until such time as the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Quarantine, places sufficient inspectors at the aforementioned points, during all hours the ports of entry are open.

4. We have recently made an exhaustive and complete survey of the work now going on in the Valles territory, both from undertakings of the United States Department of Agriculture personnel in Mexico, and from the work of the Department of Agriculture of Mexico and the work of the Mexican Citrus Growers Association. (A group of producers of citrus fruit in Mexico, banded together to aid and assist both financially and morally in preventing the spread of the blackfly).

Reference is made to No. 3 above. A copy of the emergency message sent by Gov. Beauford Jester, of Texas, to the Fifty-fourth Legislature of Texas is included, as well as newspaper clippings, in this brief, and is known as exhibit B (1).

The emergency legislation passed by the Fifty-first Legislature of the State of Texas provides for the employment of additional qualified inspectors at all ports of entry and road stations leading into the rich and fertile Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The sum of $40,000 has been so earmarked. This will employ 28 additional inspectors. As has been previously pointed out, this seems most necessary in lieu of a proper and adequate program of work by the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Quarantine. This curtailed program now being conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture was brought about by the lack of funds appropriated by Congress of the United States for use by the Department. This comment is not offered in the light of criticism, but it is given to show the need for additional appropriations.

It has been forcibly brought to the attention of the members of the committee who were in Mexico February 27 and 28, March 1 and 2, 1949, that there are major steps in our opinion, necessary to control and eventually eliminate the blackfly.

1. *Basic inspection.*—We feel that in order to properly protect the citrus and agricultural sections of the southern part of the United States, there should be inspectors of the United States Department of Agriculture on duty at all ports of entry along the Texas-Mexican border from Laredo to Brownsville, 24 hours per day, or the time the ports of entry are open. There should also be proper inspection at the deep-water ports of Brownsville and Port Isabel, plus inspection service at the international airport at Brownsville and Laredo. In checking into this matter, we find that there is not adequate funds provided to employ inspectors for such a program of work, and that it would require an additional 10 or 12 men to execute the program we feel should be carried on. This probably would cost approximately $60,000 for the year.

2. *Research.*—This program, in our opinion, should cover a wide field, including work at the Mexico City laboratory and at various field stations. We feel that the present personnel and program should be maintained with additional personnel to assist in many other special problems of blackfly work. We feel that three additional skilled men should be added for the Mexico City laboratory plus approximately six subprofessional employees. In addition to the above, we feel there should be two skilled men added for the Valles research program plus two or four subprofessional men. We also feel there is a need of three or four other skilled men for working other sections of Mexico on special work pertaining to the various phases of blackfly. Some of the problems this added personnel could help on are—determine and identify all known hosts plants; follow up work to determine kill and effectiveness of control program done; experiment with new materials for control or eradication; determine or find a better and quicker way to determine dead from live fly; check on blackfly in all stages and to especially determine proper timing of sprays for best and most economical control work; study and check on parasitic insects introduced into Mexico by the United States Department of Agriculture to eradicate blackfly. This probably will call for work in various parts of Mexico under different climatic conditions; study movement of fly in reference to possible fumigation of vehicles, or plant materials or commodities passing from infested area; men to make investigations in various parts of Mexico when new infestations are reported; certain men to cooperate and work with the Mexican Government and Mexican Department of Agricultural men to show proper use of equipment, material, application and new methods of control followed by United States Department of Agriculture so Mexico will get better results from money spent; and many other problems of research connected with the various phases of the blackfly.

Approximate cost of present program, $60,000.

Approximate cost of expanded research program—men, materials, etc., $75,000.

3. *Survey.*—We feel the need of a thorough and complete survey of citrus-producing sections of Mexico to determine the extent of blackfly infestations.

We feel that this program probably could be carried on in cooperation or coordination with the Mexican grower group and Mexican Department of Agriculture. Although a larger group could complete the work quicker, we feel that 15 qualified men assigned to various sections could make an effective survey in a reasonable time. We were led to believe that the Mexican group would furnish and pay certain men to work with the United States Department of Agriculture men. However, the United States Department of Agriculture probably would have to furnish transportation and pay certain other expenses. It is suggested that two or three capable Mexican men be assigned to work with each of the United States Department of Agriculture man for the most effective program.

Estimated cost, $80,000.

4. Our committee also feels that an inspection service under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Mexican Department of Agriculture on certain roads, railroads, etc., in Mexico would be helpful, being more of a "first-line" defense program. If it is possible this could be done in cooperation with Mexico, it surely would prevent many infestations being brought further toward border points.

Approximate cost, $20,000.

5. There is also the need of funds to allow the continuation of the program started last year, namely the search for parasitic insects in foreign countries that will control blackfly. Predatory insects have been most effective in the control

of certain other eitrus inseets, and we feel the eontinuation of a world-wide seareh for eertain inseets to eontrol blaekfly is most necessary.

Approximate estimated eost, $25,000.

The eommittee has found that the Mexiean Citrus Growers Assoeiation is most anxious and willing to eooperate in this eontrol and eradieation work. We have found the employees of the Mexiean Department of Agrieulture, eharged with the responsibility of eontrolling the blaekfly, most willing to eooperate with the United States Department of Agrieulture personnel, but we have also found that there is a laek of teehnieal knowledge on the part of the Mexiean Department in the way of personnel, and they look to the United States to supply this personnel and knowledge.

When it is realized that the blaekfly was first found on the west coast of Mexieo in 1935 and in one state, and has now spread to a total of 10 states, and has erept within aproximately 215 miles of the United States soil, it ean be realized that if no sineere and direet method of eontrol is employed that we will find ourselves in the same position as is now being experieneed by the eitrus growers of Mexieo, and that is the destruetion of the eitrus industry. In the Valles area of Mexieo alone in April 1947, baseb upon the estimates of the United States Department of Agrieulture, there were 75,000 trees infested. As of Mareh 1, 1949, it is estimated that 500,000 trees in the same territory are infested. It is reeognized that a simple quarantine of a shipment of all eitrus fruits out of Mexieo into the United States is not the answer to this serious problem, beeause this would merely mean the markets had been eut off and the eitrus produeers would have no incentive to seek eontrol measures as there would be no revenue.

We feel that the United States Department of Agrieulture laboratories in Mexieo City and the personnel in the various distriets of Mexieo, under the direetion of Dr. A. C. Baker, have made remarkable progress this past year, eonsidering the limited personnel and equipment they have had to work with. We feel that with the proper personnel and funds for equipment and material many of the answers ean be found in referenee to the habits of the blaekfly and its proper eontrol or eradieation.

In order that you may know some of the work the Mexiean Citrus Growers Assoeiation eommittee has done, whieh indieates their willingness to work on the problem, in January 1949 the "take" to the eitrus growers from a gasoline tax imposed upon the Mexiean Highway No. 1, was 191,000 pesos. This moncy is all being expended in the Valles area. The eommittee is now assessing eaeh Mexiean eitrus produeer a tax of 10 eentavos per tree to raise additional funds. The Mexican Government has approximately 24 spray rigs working in some of the infested areas. In quoting Senor Jos Benitez, viee-ehairman of the eitrus eommittee of Mexieo, we quote, "We need greatly additional teehnieal men from the United States of America to aid us in our problem. We are willing to do all that we know to do, and to support it financially to the extent of our means."

In summarizing, we wish to point out we loeally, and in the State of Texas realize the serious menaee the blaekfly holds to the entire citrus industry and for southern agrieulture. The State, taking steps, full-well realize that this is an international problem whieh ean only be sueeessfully eompleted on a Federal level. We feel there are six eertain steps that need immediate attention:

1. Basie inspeetion at all ports of entry.
2. Adequate researeh in all phases.
3. Competent survey of heretofore unsurveyed areas.
4. A joint inspection serviee on roads and railroads in Mexieo.
5. Additional world-wide seareh for natural parasites to eombat blaekfly.
6. Dipping of limes and eitrus fruits or other eontrol measures on all importations whieh might be earriers eoming into the United States.

All of the above have been eovered in the preeeding pages of this brief.

We are sure that you realize the seriousness of the blaekfly infestations in Mexico and we respeetfully urge you to do everything possible to eorreet and alleviate this threat.

Respeetfully submitted.

CHAS. A. WASHMON, *President.*

STATEMENT OF DR. P. W. ROHRBAUGH, DIRECTOR, CITRUS AND VEGETABLE TRAINING CENTER TEXAS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND INDUSTRIES, WESLACO, TEX., WITH REFERENCE TO THE BLACKFLY SITUATION

THE CITRUS BLACKFLY

The so called citrus blackfly is a small black insect closely related to the scale insects which are so damaging to citrus and other plants in California, Florida, and other citrus areas. It is also closely related to the white flies which are also very detrimental in other places. The citrus blackfly is not limited to citrus, but it attacks many other plants which are very different from citrus, such as: coffee, mango, myrtle and papaya, as well as over a hundred other plants. All varieties of citrus are favorable hosts for these insects.

The blackfly spends most of its life in the stationary scalelike form on a leaf with its needle-like beak imbedded continuously in the leaf tissue, the same as red scale of citrus, or oystershell scale which attacks a large number of trees and shrubs in many parts of the United States.

The adult blackflies have wings. They can fly but they are delicate insects and not strong fliers, although they may be carried a considerable distance by wind. Several thousand eggs may be laid on one leaf. It has been reported that one fly may lay upward of 100 eggs.

The insects develop only on the leaves and only on the underside of the leaf.

The blackfly was originally found in 1910 in India where its effect upon the citrus trees was very severe. It was first found on the American continent in Jamaica in 1913, where it was probably introduced from India on mango. Its native home, southeast Asia, is the same as the two white flies which are already serious pests of citrus and other plants in the Gulf States. The blackfly now exists in India, West Indies, Costa Rica, Canal Zone, Key West, Philippine Islands and all along the south coast of Mexico. It now extends well up the west coast of Mexico and up the east coast of Mexico to within about 250 miles of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

This insect is considered one of the most serious insect threats to the Texas citrus industry as well as that of the other sections of the United States.

Wherever this insect has invaded the citrus areas of Mexico, it has practically stopped citrus production. Trees which produced excellent crops before this insect came in, produce almost no blossoms or fruit after the trees become infested with blackfly.

When the growers of California and Arizona found that the blackfly was in Mexico only about 250 miles from their citrus orchards, they assessed themselves $25,000 and put a crew of men into the infested area of Mexico with spray outfits to help the people of Mexico fight it and keep it away from the United States border until a United States congressional appropriation could be made available. The blackfly was also fought in Cuba to keep it from getting into Florida.

There is at present no adequate quarantine to prevent this most serious pest from being brought into the Texas citrus area from Mexico.

It seems only reasonable to assume that the most important crop in the lower Rio Grande Valley (citrus) will be entirely wiped out if this insect is allowed to come in. It seems only reasonable to assume that this most serious pest will arrive in this area before very long if strenuous efforts are not made to keep it out. It is moving rapidly up the coast of Mexico now, and may at any time be expected to show up in Texas.

There are two possible methods of control of this insect if it should get into the State. One method is by the use of parasites. Parasites have been successful in areas where the humidity is very high, but they have not been able to control the pest in central and northern Mexico, and there is little hope of it doing so in the Rio Grande Valley.

The other possible method of control is by the use of oil sprays. Enough sprays to control this pest would cost somewhere around $70 to $80 per acre per year and this is prohibitive. . . . . .

It would seem, therefore, that we must keep this pest out of Texas or resign ourselves to going out of the citrus business.

MAP SYMBOLS—MILAGE DATA

MAP SYMBOLS

Areas in which Black Fly is known to infest. (actual U.S.D.A. Survey.)

Areas in which Black Fly infestation has been reported. (no U.S.D.A. survey made.)

Citrus plantings on main highways, which have not been surveyed. (U.S.D.A.)

Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

Main traveled highways into Rio Grande Valley from infested areas.

Airline distances.

MILAGE DATA

Brownsville, Texas to Valles, Mexico . . . . . .338 miles

Brownsville, Texas to edge of known (by survey) infested area. . . . . .292 miles

Brownsville, Texas to C. Victoria, Mexico reported infestation area. . . . . .194 miles

Reynosa, Mexico from Monterrey, Mexico reported infestation area. . . . . .143 miles

Airline distances between:

Brownsville and known infested areas . . . .260 miles

Reynosa and Monterrey. . . . . .137 miles

ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE
AMERICA
Rio Grande
Valley of Texas
BROWNSVILLE
Reynosa
Matamoros
Monterrey
China
Montemorelos
S. Fernando
Linares
Villagran
Jimenez
Padilla
C. Victoria
REPUBLICA
DE
MEXICO
GOLFO
DE
MEXICO
292 MILES
Huizache
Vigas
C. Mante
Ant. Morelos
Nunez
INFECTED
AREA
S. Luis Potosi
To
Mexico
D.F.
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[From the Brownsville Herald, November 25, 1948]

(Editor's Note.—The following article on the blackfly was written for the Valley in Action, official publication of the Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commeree. Due to widespread interest in the blaekfly situation, the Herald is reprinting the article through courtesy of the valley chamber.)

Valley Citrus Expert Reveals Details of Blackfly Infestation for Public—Present Pest-Control Methods Are Almost Totally Useless

(By W. H. Friend, associate county agent—Citrus, Lower Rio Grande Valley)

The presenee of the citrus blackfly on eitrus trees and more than a hundred other cultivated and native host plants of southern Mexico creates a menace to valley agriculture which should not be ignored.

The rapidity with which this dreaded pest has spread from its original point of introduction south of Mexico City to all of the area in close proximity to the Pan American Highway north and south of Valles, for a distance of several miles, is quite alarming.

MAY GET TO VALLEY

Thoughtless persons who smuggle plant material sueh as flowers, cuttings' or leaves of host plants out of the fly-infested area might well be the means of starting an infestation in the Vietoria area. From there, the pest might travel by easy stages to the Montemorelos-Monterrey area, and from there to the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

The 30 persons who made the trip to the Valles area October 17, 18, and 19, which was sponsored by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce, were shown infested properties, which have been under surveillance of entomologists of the Mexican Government and the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Stone, Mr. Cooper, and others, who are aequainted with the "fly" situation, took the party on conducted tours and gave us an opportunity to see fly-infested groves whose case histories were fairly well known. We were also afforded the opportunity to talk with the owners of citrus groves which have reeently been invaded by the blaekfly.

STOPS PRODUCTION

It was generally admitted that a heavy infestation of blaekflies in a citrus grove just about stops the production of fruit. The presence of large numbers of flies does not seem to seriously affect the general health and appearance of infested trees, but the feeding aetivities of the unbelievably large populations of flies which appear at certain seasons seems to weaken the fruiting wood to such an extent that little or no fruit is produced. The sooty mold, which grows in the "honey dew" secreted by the flies, covers the leaves and lowers their efficiency as the sugar "manufacturing" organs of the trees.

There is no doubt the potential danger which an enormously prolific, mobile pest of this nature offers to citrus fruit producers in northern Mexico and the southwestern portion of the United States. There is not much hope that we might learn to live with the blackfly, as was the case with the fruitfly; so the next step is to discover ways and means of stopping the northerly advance of this dread enemy of many types of plants. Eradication of the blackfly under eonditions which exist in the Valles area, seem to be utterly impraeticable unless some mobile parasite or some virulent disease of the blackfly can be found and disseminated over the entire area now infested with this pest.

HOPE FOR CONTROL

Natural parasites have taken care of the occasional infestations of white flies which have shown up in the lower Rio Grande Valley and there is the hope that research entomologists will eventually find parasites which will control the blackfly under climatic conditions such as we normally expeet in southmost Texas.

Financial support to expedite this phase of the fight against the blackfly is urgently needed.

Spraying for the control of the blackfly is not likely to prove eeonomically feasible beeause of the great cost involved, but the efficiency of the many types of insecticides for the eontrol of the blackfly should be determined. These artificial control measures could be used in eliminating "spot" infestations which may eventually be discovered in this eountry. Also, a control measure may be discovered whieh will be low enough in cost to be economically feasible for use against this pest.

NOT LIMITED

The fight against the blackfly is not limited to citrus growers, as every householder who loves ornamental plants and the producers of certain vegetable crops might be seriously affected by an invasion of blackfly. The bringing in of plant material from fly-infested territory should be vigorously and militantly discouraged, and any suspicious cases involving sooty mold and black encrustations under the leaves should be promptly reported to the nearest fruitfly inspector or to the Extension Service entomologist, Herman Mayeux at the county agent's office in San Benito.

[Telegram]

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce:

Retel 29 from Druary. Citrus blackfly reduces quality of fruit through feeding on foliage and by causing discoloration and disfiguration from accompanying sooty mold. It affects tree growth, greatly reducing or preventing fruit set or development. Observations in Mexico demonstrate these serious effects are occurring in all infested areas of the country and every reason to believe same results would occur in citrus areas of our country. Effective artificial control requires costly repeated applications of insecticides in oil. Observations and experiences in Mexico not sufficient to indicate frequence required to attain commercial control or effect of such applications in citrus trees.

AVERY S. HOYT,
Acting Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE BLACK FLY JUNKET MADE INTO VALLES, MEXICO, JANUARY 17, 18, 19, 1949, UNDER AUSPICES OF THE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The following facts concerning an infestation in the Valles area are taken from the lecture given by Mr. C. O. Peterson, United States Department of Agriculture Research Director for the Valles area.

1. The infestation of the citrus trees in and around Valles is just as severe at this time as it was in October 1948, during the first trip into the Valles area.

2. A spray developed by a concern in Mexico City, guaranteed to eradicate the fly, has proved unsuccessful in killing the infestation.

3. A spray developed by a California insecticide company has proved to be the most successful in controlling the spread of the infestation, but is not effective enough to completely control the fly.

(*a*) The cost of spraying in that area with this spray will average approximately 35 cents per tree. Mexican labor furnished by the Mexican Government.

(*b*) Thirty to forty gallons of spray are used for each application on each tree. All spraying must be done from underneath the tree so as to reach each leaf on its under side. A very wet and nasty job.

4. The citrus trees have become so overly infested with the fly and its drippings that nature itself has taken action by creating a new fungus which promises, under the right conditions to aid materially in combating the fly in the areas most heavily infested. This fungus has been found only on the edge of groves bordering along the banks of river.

(*a*) Fungus seems to need an excessive amount of moisture to survive.

(*b*) Present plan is to spray the groves in which this fungus has been found in order to create a more favorable condition to promote the growth of this new fungus. The spray will be pure water, and the groves will be sprayed as often as possible.

(*c*) This fungus has come into being since the month of November, 1948.

(*d*) It is a new type fungus. Not now in the valley.

5. The blackfly is partial to a humid climate but it was brought out very forcibly that in the Sonora district, where there is an annual rainfall of only 7½ inches, the fly is prevalent.

(*a*) There is no record of annual rainfall in the Valles area.

(*b*) A new weather station set up in this area will give full information by the end of 1949.

6. At the present time, surveys have been made 60 miles north of Valles, 40 miles west, and 30 miles south. Blackfly are known to infest this entire area.

(*a*) Blackfly has been reported in the Montemoreles and Monterrey areas, but this report has not been confirmed.

(*b*) No survey has been made any farther north than 60 miles, so nothing is known as to the exact line of infestation.

7. There are approximately 500,000 trees in this area. Mr. Peterson has not found a tree which was not infested.

8. There are 160 host plants to the blackfly.

9. There is one (1) quarantine station located approximately 40 miles north of Valles, where they inspect your automobile for fruit and plants.

(*a*) Six large papayas, in our possession at this station, were taken from the bus, dipped in a disinfectant, and returned to the bus.

(*b*) No other measures of disinfection were made on clothing, luggage, shoes, auto, etc.

(*c*) Border inspection consisted of the question "Have you any fruit?" and duty inspection. The papayas were not taken away from us.

A Partial List of Host Plants to the Blackfly

Coffee tree	Manderine	Black Zapate
Star apple	Mango	Malya apple
Camellia	Silver apple	Spanish lime
Rubber vine	Cashew	Gardinia
Coconut tree	Myrtle	Sour Sop
Sopata	Sour orange	Avocado
Gum tree	Sweet orange	Grapes
Eucalyptus	Papaya	Hibiscus
Ash tree	Chinaberry	Mulberry
60-odd ornamentals	Banana	Pomegranate
Lime	Rose apple	Passion flower
Lemon	Grapefruit	Rosewood
Sweet lime	Yellow Zapate	Wild cotton
Orange jasmine	White Zapate	

February 14, 1949.

To the Members of the Fifty-first Legislature:

Sixteen months ago the citrus blackfly, a most destructive pest on citrus, plants, and trees, was discovered in the Valles area of Mexico, 292 air-line miles south of Brownsville, Tex.

Late reports reveal that there was a serious spread of the infestation from October 1948 to January 1949 and that the pest has now appeared 40 miles north of Valles.

This menace to the citrus and agricultural industry of the valley is a serious threat to the basic economy of all industry in the lower Rio Grande Valley and to all agriculture of the Southwest.

It is reported to me that the United States Department of Agriculture is preparing to take action in this matter as soon as possible but that in the meantime there is a serious need for action by the State of Texas to provide—through the State department of agriculture—inspection of all host plants brought into Texas which might carry this pest.

An emergency appropriation bill is being introduced to finance this work.

Under authority of section 5 of article III of the constitution, I submit this as a subject for emergency legislation.

Respectively yours,

Beauford H. Jester, *Governor of Texas.*

[From the Valley Morning Star, February 6, 1949]

Horror of Blackfly Described by San Benito Grower—Harry Anderson Tells of Trip to Infested Valles

San Benito.—The "black horror" of the blackfly in the Valles area of Mexico was described here by Harry Anderson, San Benito grower, who recently returned from the infested section.

Anderson made the trip independently, but while there called upon both United States and Mexican Government blackfly control workers.

In speaking to a group of citrus growers here, Anderson said that valley growers would be vitally alerted to the appalling possibilities of blackfly infestation if only they could actually see the scope of the infestation and the damage done.

When it was possible to find only three unspotted leaves on 400,000 trees, the story of the blackfly damage really comes home, Anderson said. He cited one 30-acre grove where citrus trees have not borne flower not fruit and growth of tree and leaf has been stymied as the result of the blackfly. Acre after acre and grove after grove there was no growth, no flower, nor fruit, Anderson said.

CAR BARRED FROM AREA

He said that each time he took off his white hat, it was spotted with hundreds of blackflies. Officials would not allow him to drive his automobile in the region, fearing that tires would pick up and transport flies or eggs.

Anderson said there are 90 host plants that harbor the blackfly. Because of this, he believes that the blackfly will never be wiped out of the Valles area as it is so near the vast areas of jungle where the host plants grow abundantly. He said he believes the blackfly can be controlled, although present methods of spraying with DDT-and-oil emulsion require follow-up every 90 days. It is still not determined whether the cost of spraying will justify itself because of the frequency necessary, Anderson said.

BOY SCOUTS HELP

The San Benito grower commended the organized work of the Boy Scouts who are combing through clear areas to spot blackfly infestations.

"People here do not realize how serious it is," Anderson said. "And how appalling it is because it is only 300 miles from the valley."

He pointed out that the devastation by the blackfly to the Valles area citrus groves has been done in 2 years.

[From the Valley Evening Monitor, January 30, 1949]

They Look Like Fleas—Blackfly Tourers Describe Ravages of Citrus Pest in Mexican Groves

Mission.—"They look more like fleas than flies. They seem to hop more than fly."

That's H. S. Hoagland's description of citrus blackflies he saw near Valles, Mexico, on the last tour sponsored by the Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"Under a 14-power microscope, the blackfly looks about the size and shape of a ladybug to the unaided eye, so you can see it is a very small fly. It also seems to have a coat of fine grey hair over the entire body.

"The eggs are laid on the underside of the leaves in circle form. They are white and oblong and they hatch in 45 to 180 days, depending on weather. The eggs are laid the year around."

400,000 TREES

Tom Casey, of McAllen, who also made the tour, turned in a similar report.

"The 400,000 trees in the Valles area," he said, "are practically all infested, although the fly was first discovered there only 2 years ago." One grove of 35,000 trees 10 miles south of Valles was free of the flies 10 days before the trip, Casey said, but infestation had set in when the valley men were there.

Both Casey and Hoagland declared that the two United States Department of Agriculture men there are an inadequate staff for the United States share of the job. The Mexican Department of Agriculture has 16 spray rigs in the area and is considering removing infested trees, Casey said.

A fungus discovered in some of the groves 2 months ago, the valley men reported, is being watched as a possible means of parasitic control of the blackfly.

FEAR FOR VALLEY

The Mission grower, like the other 35 who made the tour, came home fearful of what the pest will do to the valley industry if it continues to spread northward. Valles is about 400 miles from the valley. The fly was reported 60 miles north of Valles, but when United States Department of Agriculture men got there to investigate, they found the owner had burned the tree on which the fly was reported. They found no other flies in the grove.

The blackfly is prolific—so prolific, Hoagland thinks, that it will take some kind of superparasite to control it.

"We saw some leaves that were nearly completely covered by the blackfly on the underside," he said. "A honeydew substance made by the fly drops to the leaves below and forms a complete coating of black color. It is like the tops of the leaves were painted with black motor oil. By sealing the leaves nearly airtight, it smothers them. Unable to get oxygen and other elements through the leaves, the trees cannot produce. Strangely, the leaves have a fairly good color and do not fall from the trees."

LIKES TENDER LEAVES

The fly shows up first on tender new growth, the two United States Department of Agriculture men told the valley group. When it becomes established in a grove, production drops and there are few blossoms and little new growth.

The United States Department of Agriculture men are spraying the underside of leaves every 20 days with an oil emulsion under 60 pounds pressure. It is intended to kill eggs and flies, but no definite report on its success had been made.

Hoagland was one of the tour members who urged that the tours be stopped lest they bring the fly to the valley. That action was taken last week by the Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is sending a delegation to Washington to ask for more funds and more men to help fight the fly on Mexican soil and more rigid quarantines between Valles and the valley.

[From the Valley Evening Monitor, January 21, 1949]

"Blackfly Can Wipe Us Out," Says Wene

Weslaco (UP).—"If the Mexican blackfly ever hits the lower Rio Grande Valley, it'll be good-by for the citrus."

Those were the words of Dr. George P. Wene, Weslaco entomologist, Wednesday, upon his return from a tour of the blackfly infested areas of Mexico.

"It was the most serious insect infestation I've ever seen," added Wene.

He said the citrus industry of the lower Rio Grande Valley should demand more research into the problem.

Wene was one of 40 valley citrus men who took a 3-day tour of the infested area, the second to be sponsored in recent months by the Valley Chamber of Commerce. The tour centered around the Valles section of Mexico.

R. E. Stewart, an Alamo grower, said the Texas citrus growers did not realize the seriousness of the infestation. Sam Tayloe, of Monte Alto, termed the blackfly more serious than quick decline, a citrus disease threatening groves in other parts of the world.

[From Valley Morning Star, Harlingen, Tex., March 3, 1949]

Report Blackfly Control Awarded Highest Priority

Stanley Crockett, chairman of the Valley Chamber of Commerce blackfly committee; Ben Chambers, member of the committee; and Jack Drake, chamber manager, have returned from Valles, Mexico, where they found work in blackfly control is being given high priority.

"Every effort is being made to control the pest," Crockett said on his return to the Valley Wednesday, "and some progress is being made in keeping it isolated in the area. There was one instance where the fly crossed the mountains to the north, but was quickly eradicated, showing that a close watch is being maintained on the situation at all time."

Crockett said that two trees north of the mountain range were found to be infested, and these were grubbed out and burned, after being saturated with kerosene. Since then no other infestations have been found, though a careful watch has been maintained.

PREPARING BRIEF

The group made the trip to secure more information on the blackfly, to be incorporated in a brief to be sent to Washington. Drake said Wednesday he believed the information would be compiled and forwarded to Congressman Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., by the latter part of this week.

Another example of the careful watch being maintained was cited by Drake.

Inspectors found 11 Latin-Americans, all residents of the United States, trying to smuggle plants around the quarantine station. They had previously been stopped by inspectors and turned back, but apparently thought they could get around the quarantine. All were jailed, the plants confiscated, and fines assessed.

UNITED STATES CITIZENS TOO

Drake said the inspectors were rather apologetic about arresting citizens of the United States on such charges.

"Don't worry about that," Drake informed A. Soya, in charge of quarantine at Valles, "We would have done the same thing if some of your citizens had tried it in our country. In fact, I think everyone in the Valley will be highly pleased to see that your department is so alert."

Jose Benitez, former Governor of the State of Nueva Leon, is now vice chairman of the Mexican Citrus Growers Association blackfly committee, which is composed of representatives from five Mexican States, and representatives of six districts in each State.

BAN TRANSPORTATION

Benitez informed them, through Enrique Benitez, owner of the Sierra Gorde hotel of Victoria, who acted as interpreter of the group, that a Federal order now prevents transportation of citrus stock from one area to another, in an effort to prevent spread of the fly.

Dr. D. A. Baker, in charge of blackfly research for the United States Department of Agriculture in the Valles area, is still working on control methods, and told the group he was forwarding to O. D. Deputy, chief of the bureau of plant quarantine at Brownsville, a formula to be used on limes being shipped to the United States.

"The limes, box and all, are dunked in the solution," Dr. Baker told them, "and so far it has been proving very effective."

FINANCED BY TAXES

Work by the Mexican Government is now being financed by gasoline taxes in the citrus area and by a tax of 10 centavos per tree on all citrus trees, the committee was informed. January, the last month on which figures are available, brought in 129,000 pesos from gasoline taxes, and all the money is now being spent in the Valles area. No report was available on the "head" tax on citrus trees.

Crockett reported that new spraying equipment is being purchased as rapidly as funds become available. At present there are 60 spraying machines at work near Valles, and this will soon be increased to 100. A crew of 60 inspectors is being maintained at all times, keeping a close check on the insect.

SOME FREEZE DAMAGE

The committee reported, also, that they saw considerable evidence of freeze damage while in Mexico. Southeast of Monterrey and around El Monte they found some tomatoes had been killed, while others had survived the freeze, and frost damage was also quite apparent near Victoria.

Benitez told the committee a careful check was being made on all rail shipments of fruit, and all must bear inspection tags. The fruit is also checked twice while in transit.

The former Governor is urging tourists not to pick flowers or plants "because you never know what they might carry."

WARN TOURISTS

He asked the committee to get the word around to tourists, as much as possible, that Mexico welcomed them, but it would save some embarrassment, if they would admire flowers and plants at a distance and not pick any.

"When they do we just have to confiscate them," he explained, "because there is too much chance they might be the means of transporting the blackfly larvae to another locality and cause it to spread."

Information obtained by the committee is to be incorporated into a report to be sent to the Department of Agriculture in an effort to secure more funds to prevent spread of the blackfly.

A $40,000 emergency appropriation has been passed by the Texas House of Representatives and sent to the Senate, to provide funds for more inspecters at points of entry until such time as the United States Department of Agriculture can staff and maintain inspection service.

Farm cash income in the lower Rio Grande Valley (Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties), 1927 to 1947, inclusive

[In thousands of dollars]

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1927	660	893	840	1,906	1,090	228	3,658	1,769	776	625	580	475	13,500
1928	1,002	930	1,931	1,931	2,803	1,841	8,471	2,463	1,123	1,111	873	750	22,729
1929	1,546	1,232	2,178	2,630	2,855	450	4,864	3,340	1,405	969	1,248	1,211	24,028
1930	2,220	1,902	2,731	4,414	3,831	358	3,448	1,596	1,038	702	704	718	23,662
1931	1,114	924	764	2,026	2,588	782	518	997	707	766	963	1,274	13,513
1932	1,828	2,394	2,706	1,826	1,050	357	730	413	229	215	578	670	13,096
1932	843	771	551	1,486	1,976	196	1,906	904	365	146	350	544	10,038
1934	868	649	776	1,224	1,978	146	3,812	1,858	444	378	744	832	13,709
1935	1,377	1,187	942	1,539	1,129	372	2,053	887	674	417	837	1,143	12,557
1936	1,810	1,697	907	2,108	2,259	508	3,037	2,680	250	881	903	2,112	19,152
1937	3,181	3,523	5,096	3,151	2,919	358	4,432	5,502	427	1,232	1,811	2,932	34,564
1938	3,299	2,773	3,319	2,410	2,613	439	3,513	3,208	295	1,096	2,222	2,589	27,776
1939	2,939	3,332	3,043	2,547	3,665	423	3,772	1,565	265	1,614	2,098	2,666	27,929
1940	2,698	3,118	2,067	1,996	596	1,134	3,662	1,989	625	1,545	1,973	1,914	23,317
1941	2,976	2,359	2,187	2,252	2,483	1,426	1,908	1,193	2,887	2,087	1,928	3,260	26,955
1942	3,793	4,934	4,339	4,494	6,401	2,415	4,735	5,633	1,264	2,787	4,472	4,728	49,995
1943	5,658	7,972	8,828	9,381	13,656	3,640	6,027	6,611	640	1,889	7,279	11,075	82,657
1944	12,712	14,287	9,909	15,482	18,255	5,741	2,259	13,773	2,991	5,121	10,159	8,181	118,870
1945	13,446	11,206	12,357	14,501	20,138	893	16,930	15,332	486	4,325	11,472	12,624	133,710
1946	13,490	14,032	13,656	17,710	14,065	1,735	23,269	17,670	1,085	2,725	7,474	8,397	135,308
1947	9,484	9,938	12,515	10,870	11,154	2,761	36,104	17,026	3,822	2,507	6,053	7,011	129,245

#20-2-48-300

Citrus census of the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, as of July 1, 1947, by counties

[This census information made available by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and reproduced in part by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chamber of Commerce]

County and fruit	Number of growing citrus trees of age—						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Hidalgo:							
Grapefruit	579,461	287,210	107,977	98,619	48,287	3,840,147	4,961,701
Orange	486,035	310,295	215,817	335,984	152,778	1,529,773	3,030,682
Tangerine	3,196	598	140	201	22	43,714	47,871
Lemon	3,406	976	3,372	2,128	4,711	87,547	102,140
Lime	291	1	6	6	16	9,728	10,048
Other citrus	169	240	280	21	400	17,755	18,865
Total	1,072,558	599,320	327,592	436,959	206,214	5,528,664	8,171,307
Cameron:							
Grapefruit	256,145	102,229	51,347	22,611	31,512	1,311,643	1,775,487
Orange	115,754	56,660	44,363	24,795	49,451	439,374	730,397
Tangerine	294	409	104	166	236	6,481	7,690
Lemon	4,998	2,126	613	324	428	8,984	17,473
Lime	231	145	132	83	94	3,972	4,657
Other citrus	42	276	18	23	43	19,670	20,072
Total	377,464	161,845	96,577	48,002	81,764	1,790,124	2,555,776
Willacy:							
Grapefruit	81,198	27,068	14,417	1,302	385	105,811	232,181
Orange	90,129	29,029	20,583	7,249	2,432	55,284	204,706
Tangerine	456	0	9	15	35	3,818	4,333
Lemon	1,185	5	2,491	683	14	14,755	19,133
Lime	2	0	2	1	4	210	219
Other citrus	0	1	3	4	6	1,426	1,440
Total	174,970	56,103	37,505	9,254	2,876	181,304	462,012
Grand total	1,624,992	817,268	461,674	494,215	290,854	7,500,092	11,189,095

Ages of trees: The ages of trees are classified as 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The trees listed in the 6 classifications above were planted during periods shown as follows: Column 0, July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1947; column 1, July 1, 1945, to June 30, 1946; column 2, July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1945; column 3, July 1, 1943, to June 30, 1944; column 4, July 1, 1942, to June 30, 1943; column 5, before July 1, 1942.

Other citrus: This classification includes kumquats, mandarins, sour oranges, satsumas, and tangelos.

Mr. GRANT. I do not know whether you care to make a statement. You might make a statement if you so wish, and then the members of the committee might ask you questions.

STATEMENT OF S. A. ROHWER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. ROHWER. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this legislation is to provide authority to work in cooperation with Mexico in supressive programs and survey programs against this citrus blackfly. The Congressman gave you a reasonable picture about how the citrus blackfly is spread in Mexico since it was first discovered on the western border in 1935. At the time that the fly was discovered there, through our knowledge of the fly in Cuba and in Key West, because we have been associated with both of those programs, we endeavored to introduce the natural enemy which had been very successful in suppressing the populations in Cuba. That natural enemy does not work effectively in Mexico in either the western area or the eastern area.

The citrus blackfly has spread northward from the western extensions, so it came up to the area of Quamas and Palma. Because of the proximity to Californian infestation, the California industry in cooperation with the Texas industry initiated a suppressive program to reduce the populations there and prevent the hazards of spread until Congress should have an opportunity to give the matter attention.

Congressman Bentsen referred to the appropriation of $100,000 what was made available in the latter part of the fiscal year 1948. That appropriation was provided under the general authorization which the Department has which permits it to do research, and we have carried on research to find out better ways of combating the citrus blackfly, and tried to explain those methods to the Mexican people, so they would protect their own industry, and by reducing the populations would eliminate or reduce the hazard of spreading into the United States.

We likewise had an expedition that went to the Orient to get in an additional parasite of the citrus blackfly, and that expedition has returned and brought in a parasite which we are now endeavoring to propagate and colonize. How successful that additional parasite will be, we do not know. We do know, however, that there are other parasites in the Orient, and maybe they will contribute to reduction in population.

The budget estimate for 1950 has eliminated all of the research. That is a matter for which we have authority to do, to continue the research. The purpose of the bill as it relates to the citrus blackfly, however, is to give us authority to cooperate with Mexico in carrying on inspections to locate where the citrus blackfly occurs, to aid Mexico in the enforcement of the quarantines which they have promulgated and are enforcing to prevent spread by artificial means and to aid them in carrying out the suppressive programs that they are carrying on.

The Congressman made reference to the tax that has been placed by the Mexican Government to get revenue. That revenue is estimated to be $750,000 to carry on the program. What Mexico wants

and what we need is authority to work with them in fighting the citrus blackfly. We need also to know where the citrus blackfly occurs. We have under the organic act of 1944 basic legislation under which appropriations are made for another pest on which we are working in Mexico, that is the pink boll weevil on cotton. Our proposal is that if we have this additional authority to cooperate with Mexico in the same way that we have with the pink boll weevil, help them to help themselves, and by helping themselves they are reducing the hazards of introduction of this pest into the United States.

Our thought does not include the idea of border inspections, because that we already have authority for, and we are carrying that out. The Congressmen made reference to that. The appropriations for the Department provide for border inspection, and that type of work is going forward.

Mr. GATHINGS. May I ask a question there. You only have three men down there, according to Mr. Bentsen.

Mr. ROHWER. Congressman Bentsen was 100 percent correct when he was speaking of the L. A. area. There are only three men, and they are doing research. But we have another team over in the western part of Mexico, where we are doing some additional work and demonstration. But that is a type of fund that we could continue, if appropriations were continued, without additional authorization. What we want to do is to have the additional authorizations so we can help Mexico inspect to find out where this blackfly occurs.

Mr. GATHINGS. May I ask another question right there? I would like to know what kind of cooperation you are getting from the Mexican officials and the Mexican Government.

Mr. ROHWER. The Mexican Government is cooperating with the research work that we are doing very closely. They provide quarters, and then they are taking the research that we do and are applying it for their benefit, but it is an indirect benefit to us. The research, the control methods that are now known, involve the use of oil and a toxicant within the oil. You can only put about so many applications of oil on the citrus tree before you begin to damage it. We are endeavoring to find out another insecticidal treatment which can be applied with the frequency that is necessary to eliminate or bring the backfly under control.

I would like to tell you just a little bit about the importance of that.

The citrus blackfly was found in the island of Key West some years back, and there where they had no citrus, but it was present on other hosts. The frequent sprayings which were done at 2-week intervals eliminated the infestation in a period of about 24 months, but we cannot put 2-week spraying on citrus with oil, because it will result in the destruction of the tree. So we are trying to find another insecticide, and we have made very good progress where we can put the applications on at the frequent intervals to do that.

The reasons that you have to put it on at frequent intervals is that this pest breeds continuously. It lays eggs, and the eggs hatch within a 7-day period, and the insecticide will not kill the eggs. So you have to wait until the eggs hatch to catch the young with another application, and if you do not keep repeated applications on, you are not going to eliminate it.

The thing that alarms us the most is that our knowledge of where this pest occurs in Mexico is restricted to the places where it occurs

on citrus. It attacks in Mexico 104 other different kinds of plants. Many of those plants are important ornamental plants within the United States. It would be destructive in greenhouses even as far north as Washington, if it became established in the United States.

Because no inspections have been made where it occurs on plants other than citrus, we have not a very good idea of where it is occurring. Mexico to protect their own citrus industry is enforcing quarantines that control the movement of plants that may carry the pest, but we do not know, nor does Mexico know, whether these quarantines are surrounding the infested area or not, because no inspections have been made on the hosts other than citrus.

They have invited us to give the technical service. They have indicated that they will give and team up with our inspections to make surveys to find out where the pest occurs, and then they will, because of their own concern there, expand their quarantine enforcement. They are using their Army to enforce their quarantine.

Likewise, they are asking our advice and counsel on helping them carry out programs to control the pest. They need technical advice. It is not our thought that we are going down there and do the job of controlling the citrus blackfly in Mexico; it is our thought that if this additional authorization is given, we will seek appropriations from the current Congress to continue the research that we have been doing to carry out these surveys with Mexico and carry out with Mexico technical advice and aid in doing the job which they are trying to do and for which they want us to work.

Mr. GATHINGS. How much would you ask in this?

Mr. ROHWER. In round numbers around $250,000.

Mr. GATHINGS. The first year?

Mr. ROHWER. Slightly less than that. The budget estimate has been prepared, but it has not yet been considered by the Budget. That would provide for continuing research, and the surveys, and this technical advice to Mexico.

Mr. GATHINGS. I believe you said about $750,000 all told ought to do that job.

Mr. ROHWER. No, that is the amount of money that they have annually available for actually doing control work. We are not proposing to do the control work. We are proposing to guide them in doing the control work. The $750,000 is the estimated revenue from the two lines of taxation which they have imposed, tax on gasoline and the tax on citrus trees, and with that fund they will carry out an aggressive program to reduce the citrus blackfly in Mexico. Whatever they do to help us is going to help themselves.

Mr. GATHINGS. As I understand, then, Mexico is making available $750,000 to combat this pest.

Mr. ROHWER. That is right.

Mr. GATHINGS. That is the first time I have ever known of that.

Mr. ROHWER. The Congressmen told you what this insect does to citrus. They did not exaggerate at all. In addition to reducing the production as he indicated, there is apparently some toxic secretion inserted into the tree that causes it to refuse to set fruit, so it does not produce fruit. But the blackfly discolors the tree. It makes a sooty mold, and the tree, instead of being a healthy looking tree, looks like it is covered with a black smoke. Ultimately it does kill the tree, but it does not do it for a period of years. But the first period of infection it reduces the yield. We have records of where in

1946–47 year, 4,000 trees produced a crop of limes to the tune of 7,500 boxes. For the next crop season, after the infestation got in there, there were only 15 boxes picked off those 4,000 trees. That is what it does to the yield.

We have every reason to believe that climatically it will be adapted to citrus culture from Florida to California because it proved itself aggressive in Key West under that climate. It has proven itself aggressive in eastern Mexico where the climate is more or less comparable to, around Vera Cruz, to Florida, and it has proved itself aggressive on the west coast where the climate is identical with that which we have in Arizona and California.

Mr. GATHINGS. Let me ask you a question right there. You have given us a lot of valuable information. I just wondered what happens to that tree after the blackfly infestation is under complete control.

Mr. ROHWER. They will recover.

Mr. GATHINGS. And it will produce fruit?

Mr. ROHWER. Yes. We know they recover, because that is our experience in Cuba. Cuba infestation became so heavy I think it was about 1930 that every ship that came across from Cuba had blackfly infestations on the roses and all of the bouquets that everybody was carrying. We were alarmed that it would become established in Florida, and so we cooperated with Cuba by sending expeditions to the Orient to get a parasite that was over there. That little parasite is a wasp that is not any longer than, well, it is about an eighth of an inch long, or less. It is very tiny. When we colonized that in Cuba, it built up so rapidly that within a period of 24 months the citrus blackfly, as far as commercial production of fruit in Cuba was concerned, was so reduced that they had no problem of its control, and we have had very few interceptions from Cuba.

That same parasite has done the same thing in the Canal Zone. It has done the same thing in the Bahamas. But in Mexico it just does not work. So we are trying to get some other ones that will work in there. If that is successful, natural control will reduce the infestation in Mexico.

But we can't wait for that, so we are going to go at it with the idea of artificial control.

Mr. GATHINGS. This blackfly has been attacking citrus fruit trees in Mexico only about 17 months, as I understand it.

Mr. ROHWER. No; in some areas it is only 17 months. It was first discovered in 1935 in one spot on the west coast of Mexico. It spread all along the west coast of Mexico. It has now gotten over into Lower California, and it has covered the coastal plain of Lower California.

Mr. GATHINGS. It did get into Lower California.

Mr. ROHWER. That is Mexico, Lower California, and it crossed the coastal plain of Mexico on the south, and it is coming progressively northward on the eastern side of Mexico. That is all since 1935. So from the one spot discovered in 1935, in one State, it has spread now so that it is known to occur in 10 States in Mexico.

The basic purpose of this legislation is to provide the authorization to carry out control and eradication work and inspections in cooperation with Mexico in Mexico. We do not have that authority, and we feel that the program to protect ourselves then from this thing needs

that type of authority because we can get very much success on the work that we are doing. Mexico needs advice, and they will take it. They have written to the Department. They have written to the State Department and begged us to come down.

Mr. GATHINGS. They are doing something about it themselves.

Mr. ROHWER. They are doing something about it themselves.

Mr. GRANT. Do we already have legislation for this type of work for the white-fringed beetle and Hall scale?

Mr. ROHWER. Mr. Chairman, no, except in this respect; there is basic law that provides or authorizes appropriation for incipient and emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases. The Hall scale was discovered in Chico, Calif., and it became an incipient infestation, and an emergency infestation because it threatens the deciduous fruits. It attacks those. So appropriations were provided under that authorization to carry on programs against the Hall scale.

The white-fringed beetle was discovered in the South some years back, and there again we carried on in cooperation with the States, a suppressive program and regulatory program to prevent the spread. Those programs have been financed under this incipient and emergency appropriation. The Organic Act of 1944 enumerates the pests for which appropriations can be made to combat.

The Hall scale work and the white fringed beetle work are on all fours, like the pink boll weevil work and the Japanese beetle work, and the Mexican fruitfly work, and the Department's desire is to have general authority so they can seek continuing appropriations, that is, 12 months' appropriations for that.

These incipient and emergency appropriations, Congress has been providing them on the basis of 9 months, and then a deficiency for the rest of the fiscal year. That does not provide for the type of orderly planning of a job that needs to be done 12 months of the year, and what our plan is if we have this authorization in the organic act is to reduce the amounts that we have been getting in the incipient and emergency to carry on, and put it over under the regular appropriations in about the same amount, so we will be able to plan the work on a 12-month fiscal-year basis, rather than on 9-month basis, and then come back and see if we can get some more money.

Mr. GRANT. I notice where you have basic legislation for the control and eradication of Mexican fruitflies; of course, that is something entirely different, is it not?

Mr. ROHWER. That is a very different type of insect. It is an insect that is a true fly that stings the fruit. The egg hatches into a maggot that works within the fruit, and we are carrying on a program there. The basic legislation permits us to carry on work in Mexico, and we are doing some work in Mexico there, across there particularly at Matamoros. We go over there and cooperate with them in suppressing infestations in Matamoros because the fly hops across the river into Brownsville, and that legislation has been continuing for a long time.

The same applies to the pink boll weevil. There is nothing new in this thing. It is getting organic law to provide for appropriations to carry on against these three pests, the same types of programs that we have been carrying on on two of them, but under the incipient and emergency appropriations which we feel should be incipient and emergency jobs, as opposed to jobs like this.

Mr. GATHINGS. You have been getting funds to carry on this work on the white-fringed beetle and Hall scale right along.

Mr. ROHWER. We have.

Mr. GATHINGS. But there is no authorization written into the law.

Mr. ROHWER. It is general authorization. You have to consider them incipient and emergency infestations, which they are, but after they have been continuing a few years, it is rather stretching the point that they are incipient and emergency and we feel that they ought to be treated like the Japanese beetle was.

Mr. GATHINGS. It will not cost any more.

Mr. ROHWER. It will not cost any more. The only estimate that will follow this legislation at the present time will be an estimate which will ask for the continuation of the research on citrus blackfly in the same amount that we had for the fiscal year 1949, which is not in the 1950 budget, and an additional appropriation of $170,000 at a maximum, making a total of around $250,000 to work on citrus blackfly.

I would like to leave one more thought; that would be that we would hope your committee will give early consideration of this legislation because it has a bearing on the estimate that we would like to have considered by the Appropriations Committee in the third deficiency bill.

Mr. GATHINGS. Could I ask one thing? Could you supply for the record some photographs of these beetles?

Mr. ROHWER. Surely. I have many of them.

Mr. GATHINGS. So that it could go into the printed record.

Mr. ROHWER. They are hard to reproduce.

The Hall scale is a spot as big, about this big [indicating] less than that. It sets on the tree and sucks the sap out of it and they just pile up on top of each other, so you cannot see even the bark.

The white fringed beetle superficially looks like the cotton boll weevil, but it does not behave at all like it. It has a white stripe along the side of its body. That is why we call it the white fringed, because its body is fringed with white.

The blackfly is not a black fly at all, but if you ever look at your wife's house plants, and see a little white bug flying around them that looks a little bit fuzzy when it sits on the leaves, and translate that white to black, you have the citrus blackfly.

Mr. GRANT. Thank you very much for this good statement.

Mr. ROHWER. Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before your group, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BENTSEN. Before we close the hearing, I desire to include in the record at this point a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture. If there is no objection, that will be done.

(The information is as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, April 18, 1949.

The SPEAKER,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is transmitted herewith, for the consideration of the Congress, proposed legislation which would amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 so as to include the citrus blackfly, the white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U. S. C., 147a) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out independently or on a

cooperative basis operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of specified insect pests and plant diseases known to be destructive to our agriculture. The various pests enumerated in the act are species that were recognized to be of special importance and for which Congress had provided funds to enable the Department to carry on control programs for several years prior to the enactment of this act.

These three additional destructive insect pests threaten our agriculture and are of such potential importance that operations to combat them should be authorized and provided for in similar manner. To do this it is recommended that section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 be amended to include specific reference to these pests. Prompt consideration of such proposed legislation is recommended for the reasons given below.

The citrus blackfly does not now occur within the United States. In 1934 this insect gained limited establishment on the island of Key West, Fla., but after an intensive suppression program, carried out by the State of Florida in general cooperation with the Department extending to June 1937, the infestation was eradicated. In 1935 this very destructive pest became established in one locality on the west coast of Mexico. It has now spread generally in the western part of Mexico and across to the eastern section of the country. The known infestations in Mexico are from approximately 250 and 300 miles from important citrus-producing sections of our country in Arizona and Texas, respectively. The pest is now rapidly increasing in destructiveness in Mexico, and a recent report indicates it has been found in two additional localities.

The Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1948 (Public Law 430, 80th Cong.) provided an appropriation of $100,000 for the fiscal years 1948 and 1949 to enable the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to carry out research to develop information on how to combat this pest by the use of insecticides, to import natural enemies and in cooperation with the Mexican Government colonize them in infested sections, and to cooperate with the Mexican Government in carrying out field tests and demonstrations to appraise the effectiveness of control measures. Considerable progress has been made in connection with these investigations, and much additional information has been secured on the behavior of the insect in Mexico.

It is now well established that the pest causes serious losses to citrus and that it is increasing in abundance and virulence in many sections of Mexico. The destructiveness of the pest is illustrated by observations made in a limited area in Mexico where about 4,000 citrus trees are grown. The production of fruit from these trees in the 1946–47 season was about 7,500 boxes, but during the 1947–48 season the same trees produced only about 15 boxes. The insect covers the trees with a sooty mold, and through its feeding apparently causes some toxic reaction which prevents the trees from setting fruit.

In addition to attacking citrus, the insect feeds on some 120 plants and is known to successfully develop on some 75 plants in Mexico. Many of these host plants are important economically; some of the others are native wild plants. The life cycle is short, and the insect reproduces rapidly, and its range may be extending much more rapidly than we now know through development on the wide variety of plants on which it can live. Exact information is not available concerning its distribution in Mexico, and it may now be established much nearer to our country than the present known infestations.

The Mexican Government is very much concerned regarding the destructiveness of this insect and has recently taken steps to greatly expand a suppressive program. We are informally advised that they have provided a great increase in the funds to be used for this purpose to combat the pest, and they have informally solicited our counsel and advice in procedures to be followed. We have reasonable assurance they would welcome our close participation in a program to develop more facts and to technically aid in surveys and control measures.

The potential importance of this pest to our agriculture emphasizes the need for cooperating with Mexico in such ways as we can to combat and retard the spread of the pest. It is likewise important that we should work with that country in developing accurate information on the occurrence of the pest in Mexico. The situation in reference to this pest is, therefore, quite comparable to that of two other pests well established in Mexico, against which we have been carrying on control operations for a number of years. These pests, the Mexican fruitfly and the pink bollworm, are established in limited parts of the United States.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 authorizes the Department "* * * to cooperate with the Government of Mexico or local Mexican authorities in carrying out necessary surveys and control operations

in Mexico in connection with the eradication, suppression, control, and prevention or retardation of the spread of Mexican fruitflies, and pink bollworm and thurberia weevil." It is believed that this authority should be extended to enable the Department to carry out similar cooperative activities in connection with the citrus blackfly. The proposed amendment could provide such authority by the insertion of the words "citrus blackfly" in the existing language. If such authorization is provided, the Department would propose to cooperate with Mexico in carrying out surveys to determine the occurrence of the pest, to cooperate with appropriate officials in an advisory manner in reference to technical problems associated with the enforcement of quarantines which they have promulgated to prevent the spread of the citrus blackfly, and to counsel and advise with them in carrying out control operations to suppress and control it. These activities are similar to those now effectively and satisfactorily carried out in connection with the program to combat the pink bollworm. They would be in addition to those of a research nature which are being carried on under the appropriation referred to above and for which there is general authorizing authority.

If the much-needed authority requested in the proposed amendment is provided, the Department would prepare for consideration estimates of funds that might be required to carry out such activities. Detailed estimates have not been prepared, but at the present it would appear that the additional funds that may be required for such activities, which are in addition to research, would be approximately $150,000 annually for the next few years. It is not contemplated that we would provide facilities and means for carrying out control operations or that our participation in programs to control and prevent the spread of the pest would be in a manner different from that outlined above.

The need for authorizing legislation to carry on cooperative work with Mexico with respect to the citrus blackfly is urgent and is in the public interest.

Two of the three additional pests, the white-fringed beetle and the Hall scale, are now established in limited areas of the United States and the Department has been cooperating with States to control and prevent their spread. These activities have been provided for by annual appropriations and conducted under authority included in legislation (7 U. S. C. 148–148e) which provides for carrying out cooperative control measures against incipient or emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases. It now appears that operations to suppress, control, and prevent the spread of these insects will need to be carried on for some years to come and that these programs will be of the same general type as those conducted against several of the pests enumerated in section 102 of the Organic Act of 1944. Programs of this character continue throughout the year and, except in unusual cases, estimates of the funds required can be determined in advance for budgetary purposes. In this respect the work conducted against these two pests differs from other operations now provided for by appropriations made to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases.

For several years Congress has provided appropriations to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases. In providing funds for the current fiscal year, the Congress indicated that it preferred to provide a token appropriation to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases and defer final action until later in the fiscal year when more complete information would be available as to the needs of the various programs. To carry out this plan as to emergency type programs, it is believed that the more stable activities relative to white-fringed beetles and the Hall scale should be provided for under an annual appropriation on a full-year basis, as is done with the Japanese beetle, sweetpotato weevil, and the pink bollworm.

A companion letter and enclosure are being forwarded to the President of the Senate.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the President's program, there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation and explanatory letter to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. BRANNAN,
Secretary.

Mr. GRANT. The committee will recess now subject to the call of the Chair.

(Thereupon at 11:45 a. m., the committee recessed subject to call.)

Calendar No. 395

81st Congress, 1st Session | SENATE | Report No. 408

AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIC ACT OF 1944

May 19 (legislative day, April 11), 1949.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Young, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1749]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1749) to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale, having considered same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with amendments.

On page 1, line 8, after the word "beetle,", insert the words "wheat-stem sawfly,".

The title is amended to correspond to the amendment to the body of the bill.

A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. Charles F. Brannan, dated April 18, 1949, requesting enactment of this legislation, is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Department of Agriculture,
Washington, April 18, 1949.

The honorable the President of the Senate.

Dear Mr. President: There is transmitted herewith, for the consideration of the Congress, proposed legislation which would amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 so as to include the citrus blackfly, the white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U. S. C., 147a) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out independently or on a cooperative basis operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of specified insect pests and plant diseases known to be destructive to our agriculture. The various pests enumerated in the act are species that were recognized to be of special importance and for which Congress had provided funds to enable the Department to carry on control programs for several years prior to the enactment of this act.

These three additional destructive insect pests threaten our agriculture and are of such potential importance that operations to combat them should be authorized

and provided for in similar manner. To do this it is recommended that section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 be amended to include specific reference to these pests. Prompt consideration of such proposed legislation is recommended for the reasons given below.

The citrus blackfly does not now occur within the United States. In 1934 this insect gained limited establishment on the island of Key West, Fla., but after an intensive suppression program, carried out by the State of Florida in general cooperation with the Department extending to June 1937, the infestation was eradicated. In 1935 this very destructive pest became established in one locality on the west coast of Mexico. It has now spread generally in the western part of Mexico and across to the eastern section of the country. The known infestations in Mexico are from approximately 250 and 300 miles from important citrus-producing sections of our country in Arizona and Texas, respectively. The pest is now rapidly increasing in destructiveness in Mexico, and a recent report indicates it has been found in two additional localities.

The Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1948 (Public Law 430, 80th Cong.) provided an appropriation of $100,000 for the fiscal years 1948 and 1949 to enable the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to carry out research to develop information on how to combat this pest by the use of insecticides, to import natural enemies and in cooperation with the Mexican Government colonize them in infested sections, and to cooperate with the Mexican Government in carrying out field tests and demonstrations to appraise the effectiveness of control measures. Considerable progress has been made in connection with these investigations, and much additional information has been secured on the behavior of the insect in Mexico.

It is now well established that the pest causes serious losses to citrus and that it is increasing in abundance and virulence in many sections of Mexico. The destructiveness of the pest is illustrated by observations made in a limited area in Mexico where about 4,000 citrus trees are grown. The production of fruit from these trees in the 1946–47 season was about 7,500 boxes, but during the 1947–48 season the same trees produced only about 15 boxes. The insect covers the trees with a sooty mold, and through its feeding apparently causes some toxic reaction which prevents the trees from setting fruit.

In addition to attacking citrus, the insect feeds on some 120 plants and is known to successfully develop on some 75 plants in Mexico. Many of these host plants are important economically; some of the others are native wild plants. The life cycle is short, and the insect reproduces rapidly, and its range may be extending much more rapidly than we now know through development on the wide variety of plants on which it can live. Exact information is not available concerning its distribution in Mexico, and it may now be established much nearer to our country than the present known infestations.

The Mexican Government is very much concerned regarding the destructiveness of this insect and has recently taken steps to greatly expand a suppressive program. We are informally advised that they have provided a great increase in the funds to be used for this purpose to combat the pest, and they have informally solicited our counsel and advice in procedures to be followed. We have reasonable assurance they would welcome our close participation in a program to develop more facts and to technically aid in surveys and control measures.

The potential importance of this pest to our agriculture emphasizes the need for cooperating with Mexico in such ways as we can to combat and retard the spread of the pest. It is likewise important that we should work with that country in developing accurate information on the occurrence of the pest in Mexico. The situation in reference to this pest is, therefore, quite comparable to that of two other pests well established in Mexico, against which we have been carrying on control operations for a number of years. These pests, the Mexican fruitfly and the pink bollworm, are established in limited parts of the United States.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 authorizes the Department "* * * to cooperate with the Government of Mexico or local Mexican authorities in carrying out necessary surveys and control operations in Mexico in connection with the eradication, suppression, control, and prevention or retardation of the spread of Mexican fruitflies, and pink bollworm and thurberia weevil." It is believed that this authority should be extended to enable the Department to carry out similar cooperative activities in connection with the citrus blackfly. The proposed amendment could provide such authority by the insertion of the words "citrus blackfly" in the existing language. If such authorization is provided, the Department would propose to cooperate with Mexico in

carrying out surveys to determine the occurrence of the pest, to cooperate with appropriate officials in an advisory manner in reference to technical problems associated with the enforcement of quarantines which they have promulgated to prevent the spread of the citrus blackfly, and to counsel and advise with them in carrying out control operations to suppress and control it. These activities are similar to those now effectively and satisfactorily carried out in connection with the program to combat the pink bollworm. They would be in addition to those of a research nature which are being carried on under the appropriation referred to above and for which there is general authorizing authority.

If the much needed authority requested in the proposed amendment is provided, the Department would prepare for consideration estimates of funds that might be required to carry out such activities. Detailed estimates have not been prepared, but at the present it would appear that the additional funds that may be required for such activities, which are in addition to research, would be approximately $150,000 annually for the next few years. It is not contemplated that we would provide facilities and means for carrying out control operations or that our participation in programs to control and prevent the spread of the pest would be in a manner different from that outlined above.

The need for authorizing legislation to carry on cooperative work with Mexico with respect to the citrus blackfly is urgent and is in the public interest.

Two of the three additional pests, the white-fringed beetle and the Hall scale, are now established in limited areas of the United States and the Department has been cooperating with States to control and prevent their spread. These activities have been provided for by annual appropriations and conducted under authority included in legislation (7 U. S. C. 148–148e) which provides for carrying out cooperative control measures against incipient or emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases. It now appears that operations to suppress, control, and prevent the spread of these insects will need to be carried on for some years to come and that these programs will be of the same general type as those conducted against several of the pests enumerated in section 102 of the Organic Act of 1944. Programs of this character continue throughout the year and, except in unusual cases, estimates of the funds required can be determined in advance for budgetary purposes. In this respect the work conducted against these two pests differs from other operations now provided for by appropriations made to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases.

For several years Congress has provided appropriations to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases. In providing funds for the current fiscal year, the Congress indicated that it preferred to provide a token appropriation to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases and defer final action until later in the fiscal year when more complete information would be available as to the needs of the various programs. To carry out this plan as to emergency-type programs, it is believed that the more stable activities relative to white-fringed beetles and the Hall scale should be provided for under an annual appropriation on a full-year basis, as is done with the Japanese beetle, sweetpotato weevil, and the pink bollworm.

A companion letter and enclosure are being forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the President's program, there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation and explanatory letter to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. BRANNAN, *Secretary.*

Calendar No. 395

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1749

[Report No. 408]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

MAY 19 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949

Reported by Mr. YOUNG, with amendments

[Insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (Act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringe beetle, *wheat-stem sawfly,* and Hall scale" between

★

the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly," immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, wheat-stem sawfly, and the Hall scale."

Calendar No. 395

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1749

[Report No. 408]

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

By Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma

MAY 2 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949
Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

MAY 19 (legislative day, APRIL 11), 1949
Reported with amendments

81st Congress } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { Report
1st Session } { No. 645

CITRUS BLACKFLY, WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE AND THE HALL SCALE

May 20, 1949.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. Cooley, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 4263]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4263) to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

STATEMENT

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U. S. C. 147a) is the section of the act authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out, independently or on a cooperative basis, operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, control, or prevent or retard the spread of certain specified insect pests and plant diseases known to be destructive to our agriculture.

Pests and plant diseases now included in the section are Japanese beetle, sweetpotato weevil, Mexican fruitflies, citrus canker, gypsy and brown-tail moth, Dutch elm disease, phony peach and peach mosaic, cereal rusts, corn borer, and pink bollworm and thurberia weevil. The section contains a proviso which authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with Mexican authorities in carrying out control operations in Mexico against three of these pests, viz, Mexican fruitflies, pink bollworm, and thurberia weevil.

Authority to conduct general research and experiments on insect pests and plant diseases—and to conduct emergency preventive or eradication measures in the United States in the case of acute outbreaks—is contained elsewhere in the act and is not affected or changed in any way by this legislation.

Without the legislation here proposed, however, the Secretary does not have the authority to conduct long-time campaigns against the pests named in this bill nor to carry on any operations in Mexico other than a limited amount of research.

CITRUS BLACKFLY

The citrus blackfly is a destructive insect pest which does not now exist in the United States. It became established on the island of Key West in 1934 but was eradicated by control measures which continued to June 1937. The treatment used for its eradication there (frequent spraying of oil on the trees affected) cannot be used when the insect attacks citrus because the treatment will kill citrus trees. In 1935 this pest became established on the west coast of Mexico and has since spread generally in the western part of Mexico and across to the eastern section of that country. It is now known to be only about 250 to 300 miles from important citrus regions of the United States, and may be even closer—since surveys have not been adequate to locate it definitely.

The blackfly is extremely destructive of citrus. It covers the trees with a sooty mold and its feeding apparently produces some toxic reaction which prevents the trees from setting fruit. A serious attack will put an orchard entirely out of production in one season and unless the insect is brought under control the trees themselves will be killed. The insect has been found to feed on some 120 different plants in Mexico and to develop successfully on at least 75 plants.

Thus far no completely effective control measures have been found that are not also destructive of the citrus trees. A small wasp parasite which has been used successfully in Cuba has been found unadapted to the less humid climate found in Mexico and southern United States. A search is in progress for other possible parasites that may be used successfully in those areas.

The Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1948 (Public Law 430, 80th Cong.) provided an appropriation of $100,000 to carry out laboratory and field experimentation and research on methods of combating this pest. The Mexican Government is attacking the pest vigorously and is allocating tax revenues estimated at about $750,000 annually to this purpose.

This bill adds the citrus blackfly to those plant pests which the Secretary is authorized to eradicate and control in the United States and also includes it among the pests against which operations in cooperation with the Mexican Government are authorized.

The Secretary of Agriculture estimates that additional appropriations of about $150,000 annually will be requested to carry on the campaign against the citrus blackfly authorized by this bill.

WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE AND HALL SCALE

Hall scale is an insect which attacks deciduous fruits. It is a native of Asia but has become established in some parts of California. The white-fringed beetle is a soil-dwelling insect originally from South America which was discovered in our Southern States a few years ago.

For the past several years the Department of Agriculture has been carrying on prevention and control measures against these insects under its authority to combat incipient or emergency outbreaks of

plant insects and diseases. This bill recognizes the fact that the control and eradication efforts against these pests are no longer on a temporary or emergency basis and should be authorized as year-round programs of the same type as those directed against the other pests named in section 102.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Enactment of legislation such as H. R. 4263 was recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture in an executive communication dated April 18, 1949. Following is the Secretary's letter:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, April 18, 1949.

The SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is transmitted herewith, for the consideration of the Congress, proposed legislation which would amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 so as to include the citrus blackfly, the white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U. S. C. 147a) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out independently or on a cooperative basis operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of specified insect pests and plant diseases known to be destructive to our agriculture. The various pests enumerated in the act are species that were recognized to be of special importance and for which Congress had provided funds to enable the Department to carry on control programs for several years prior to the enactment of this act.

These three additional destructive insect pests threaten our agriculture and are of such potential importance that operations to combat them should be authorized and provided for in similar manner. To do this it is recommended that section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 be amended to include specific reference to these pests. Prompt consideration of such proposed legislation is recommended for the reasons given below.

The citrus blackfly does not now occur within the United States. In 1934 this insect gained limited establishment on the island of Key West, Fla., but after an intensive suppression program, carried out by the State of Florida in general cooperation with the Department extending to June 1937, the infestation was eradicated. In 1935 this very destructive pest became established in one locality on the west coast of Mexico. It has now spread generally in the western part of Mexico and across to the eastern section of the country. The known infestations in Mexico are from approximately 250 and 300 miles from important citrus-producing sections of our country in Arizona and Texas, respectively. The pest is now rapidly increasing in destructiveness in Mexico, and a recent report indicates it has been found in two additional localities.

The Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1948 (Public Law 430, 80th Cong.) provided an appropriation of $100,000 for the fiscal years 1948 and 1949 to enable the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to carry out research to develop information on how to combat this pest by the use of insecticides, to import natural enemies and in cooperation with the Mexican Government colonize them in infested sections, and to cooperate with the Mexican Government in carrying out field tests and demonstrations to appraise the effectiveness of control measures. Considerable progress has been made in connection with these investigations, and much additional information has been secured on the behavior of the insect in Mexico.

It is now well established that the pest causes serious losses to citrus and that it is increasing in abundance and virulence in many sections of Mexico. The destructiveness of the pest is illustrated by observations made in a limited area in Mexico where about 4,000 citrus trees are grown. The production of fruit from these trees in the 1946–47 season was about 7,500 boxes, but during the 1947–48 season the same trees produced only about 15 boxes. The insect covers the trees with a sooty mold, and through its feeding apparently causes some toxic reaction which prevents the trees from setting fruit.

In addition to attacking citrus, the insect feeds on some 120 plants and is known to successfully develop on some 75 plants in Mexico. Many of these

host plants are important economically; some of the others are native wild plants. The life cycle is short, and the insect reproduces rapidly, and its range may be extending much more rapidly than we now know through development on the wide variety of plants on which it can live. Exact information is not available concerning its distribution in Mexico, and it may now be established much nearer to our country than the present known infestations.

The Mexican Government is very much concerned regarding the destructiveness of this insect and has recently taken steps to greatly expand a suppressive program. We are informally advised that they have provided a great increase in the funds to be used for this purpose to combat the pest, and they have informally solicited our counsel and advice in procedures to be followed. We have reasonable assurance they would welcome our close participation in a program to develop more facts and to technically aid in surveys and control measures.

The potential importance of this pest to our agriculture emphasizes the need for cooperating with Mexico in such ways as we can to combat and retard the spread of the pest. It is likewise important that we should work with that country in developing accurate information on the occurrence of the pest in Mexico. The situation in reference to this pest is, therefore, quite comparable to that of two other pests well established in Mexico, against which we have been carrying on control operations for a number of years. These pests, the Mexican fruitfly and the pink bollworm, are established in limited parts of the United States.

Section 102 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 authorizes the Department "* * * to cooperate with the Government of Mexico or local Mexican authorities in carrying out necessary surveys and control operations in Mexico in connection with the eradication, suppression, control, and prevention, or retardation of the spread of Mexican fruitflies, and pink bollworm and thurberia weevil." It is believed that this authority should be extended to enable the Department to carry out similar cooperative activities in connection with the citrus blackfly. The proposed amendment could provide such authority by the insertion of the words "citrus blackfly" in the existing language. If such authorization is provided, the Department would propose to cooperate with Mexico in carrying out surveys to determine the occurrence of the pest, to cooperate with appropriate officials in an advisory manner in reference to technical problems associated with the enforcement of quarantines which they have promulgated to prevent the spread of the citrus blackfly, and to counsel and advise with them in carrying out control operations to suppress and control it. These activities are similar to those now effectively and satisfactorily carried out in connection with the program to combat the pink bollworm. They would be in addition to those of a research nature which are being carried on under the appropriation referred to above and for which there is general authorizing authority.

If the much-needed authority requested in the proposed amendment is provided, the Department would prepare for consideration estimates of funds that might be required to carry out such activities. Detailed estimates have not been prepared, but at the present it would appear that the additional funds that may be required for such activities, which are in addition to research, would be approximately $150,000 annually for the next few years. It is not contemplated that we would provide facilities and means for carrying out control operations or that our participation in programs to control and prevent the spread of the pest would be in a manner different from that outlined above.

The need for authorizing legislation to carry on cooperative work with Mexico with respect to the citrus blackfly is urgent and is in the public interest.

Two of the three additional pests, the white-fringed beetle and the Hall scale, are now established in limited areas of the United States and the Department has been cooperating with States to control and prevent their spread. These activities have been provided for by annual appropriations and conducted under authority included in legislation (7 U. S. C. 148–148e) which provides for carrying out cooperative control measures against incipient or emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases. It now appears that operations to suppress, control, and prevent the spread of these insects will need to be carried on for some years to come and that these programs will be of the same general type as those conducted against several of the pests enumerated in section 102 of the organic act of 1944. Programs of this character continue throughout the year and, except in unusual cases, estimates of the funds required can be determined in advance for budgetary purposes. In this respect the work conducted against these two pests differs from other operations now provided for by appropriations made to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases.

For several years Congress has provided appropriations to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insects and plant diseases. In providing funds for the current fiscal year, the Congress indicated that it preferred to provide a token appropriation to combat incipient and emergency outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases and defer final action until later in the fiscal year when more complete information would be available as to the needs of the various programs. To carry out this plan as to emergency-type programs, it is believed that the more stable activities relative to white-fringed beetles and the Hall scale should be provided for under an annual appropriation on a full-year basis, as is done with the Japanese beetle, sweetpotato weevil, and the pink bollworm.

A companion letter and enclosure are being forwarded to the President of the Senate.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the President's program, there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation and explanatory letter to the Congress for its consideration.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. BRANNAN, *Secretary.*

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2a of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIC ACT OF 1944

(Act of September 21, 1944; 58 Stat. 735)

TITLE I

* * * * * * *

SEC. 102. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture either independently or in cooperation with States or political subdivisions thereof, farmers' associations, and similar organizations, and individuals, is authorized to carry out operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, control, or to prevent or retard the spread of Japanese beetle, sweetpotato weevil, Mexican fruitflies, citrus canker, gypsy and brown-tail moth, Dutch elm disease, phony peach and peach mosaic, cereal rusts, corn borer, [and] pink bollworm and thurberia weevil, *citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and Hall scale: Provided,* That the Secretary of Agriculture is further authorized to cooperate with the Government of Mexico or local Mexican authorities in carrying out necessary surveys and control operations in Mexico in connection with the eradication, suppression, control, and prevention or retardation of the spread of Mexican fruitflies, *citrus blackfly* and pink bollworm and thurberia weevil. In performing the operations or measures herein authorized, the cooperating foreign country, State, or local agency shall be responsible for the authority necessary to carry out the operations or measures on all lands and properties within the foreign country or State other than those owned or controlled by the Federal Government and for such other facilities and means as in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture are necessary. As used in this section, the term "State" includes the District of Columbia and the Territories and possessions of the United States.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to promulgate such rules and regulations and use such means as he may deem necessary to provide for the inspection of domestic plants and plant products offered for export and to certify to shippers and interested parties as to the freedom of such products from injurious insect pests and plant diseases according to the sanitary requirements of the foreign countries to which such products may be exported.

(c) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as the Congress may from time to time determine to be necessary to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the provisions of this section. Unless otherwise specifically authorized, or provided for in appropriations, no part of such sums shall be used to pay the cost or value of property injured or destroyed.

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Union Calendar No. 249

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4263

[Report No. 645]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 1949

Mr. BENTSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

MAY 20, 1949

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (Act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly" immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

Union Calendar No. 249

81ST CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4263

[Report No. 645]

A BILL

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

By Mr. BENTSEN

APRIL 14, 1949

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

MAY 20, 1949

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

such work was at least equal to the compensation which would have been payable for such work had the amendment made by section 1 of this act been in effect at the time of such payment.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, the bill is not in my book. I have no personal objection to it, but I believe it should be explained or that we should have a copy of it.

Mr. HILL. Mr. President, this bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 230 to 7. It is for the purpose of clarifying the Fair Labor Standards Act. Is the Senator familiar with that act?

Mr. SALTONSTALL. I know what the bill is now, and I have no objection.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the committee amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "An act to clarify the overtime compensation provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended."

LIQUIDATION OF TRUSTS UNDER TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

The bill (S. 930) to provide for the liquidation of trusts under the transfer agreements with State rehabilitation corporations, and for other purposes, was announced as next in order.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, may we have an explanation of the bill?

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. President, the bill provides for transfering back to the States approximately $50,000,000 worth of assets, representing money originally granted for rehabilitation purposes in 1934, 1935, and 1936. The funds were granted to the States.

Transfer agreements were entered into between the individual State rural rehabilitation corporations and the administrator of the Resettlement Administration.

The Senator from North Dakota is extremely interested in this bill. He came to the Department sometime ago and tried to get a transfer to the States. Some officials feel that the assets should remain in the Federal Government and be given to the Farm Credit Administration. The States believe the money should go back to them and be used for rural rehabilitation within those States. The Senator from North Dakota was very persuasive when he came to see me in another capacity. I tried at that time to get a bill reported, but it did not then seem possible. Since then we have tried to bring the matter to a head and make it possible for the funds to get out of the situation in which they are at this time.

Mr. WILLIAMS. What is the feeling of the Department?

Mr. ANDERSON. It is against this bill. It feels that the funds should be retransferred to the Farm Credit Administration, but it is the feeling of the Senator from North Dakota and it is my feeling, and I think, the feeling of some other persons, that the funds should be transferred back to the States to whom they were originally granted.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Do I understand that the Senator is in favor of the bill?

Mr. ANDERSON. Yes.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I have no objection.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the consideration of the bill? The Chair hears none.

There being no objection.

The bill (S. 930) was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That this act may be cited as the "Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Liquidation Act."

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be appropriate and necessary to liquidate, as expeditiously as possible but within 5 years from the effective date of this act, trusts under the transfer agreements with the several State rural rehabilitation corporations, and is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate with responsible officials to that end.

(b) The Secretary, insofar as is necessary to protect the interests of the United States, and the corporations shall proceed forthwith to the conversion to cash of investments constituting the trust assets by sale of real and personal properties, and by collection of loans and accounts receivable according to the tenor of such obligations.

(c) An application for the return of such properties shall be made to the Secretary by the State rural rehabilitation corporation pursuant to appropriate resolution of its board of directors. The application shall contain a covenant, binding upon the corporation when accepted by the Secretary on behalf of the United States, that the corporation will abide by the determinations and apportionments of the Secretary provided for in this act and the payments made by the Secretary pursuant to this act, that the returned assets and the income therefrom will be used only for such of the rural rehabilitation purposes permissible under the corporation's charter as may from time to time be agreed upon by the corporation and the Secretary; and that not to exceed 3 percent of the book value of the corporation's assets will be expended by the corporation for administrative purposes during any year, without the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. If the rural rehabilitation corporation of any State has been dissolved and is not revived or reincorporated or, for any other reason, is unable to make such application or to accept and administer such properties, the application and subsequent agreements may be made by such other agency or official of that State as may be designated by the State legislature. The Secretary may transfer the trust funds or properties of such corporation to such successor agency or official if adequate provisions are made by the State legislature for holding the United States and the Secretary free from liability by virtue of the transfer to such successor agency or official.

(d) Except as hereinafter provided, upon receipt of appropriate application meeting the requirements of this act, the Secretary shall do all things necessary to return to each such applicant all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to all cash, real and personal property, or the proceeds thereof, held on the date of the approval of this act by the Secretary as trustee for the account of such State corporation, except that the Secretary may deduct from the funds of each such State corporation the expenses incident to completion of such transfer: *Provided*, That such transfer shall, insofar as possible, be accomplished in a manner consistent with the provisions of the trust agreement with each State rural rehabilitation corporation.

(e) In the event no application is made, as provided for in this act within 5 years from the effective date hereof or disclaimer or release of interest under the trust transfer agreement by any State through its legislature, the Secretary shall cause all proceeds from assets held under or for the account of the transfer agreement with that State to be covered into miscellaneous receipts in the United States Treasury.

SEC. 3. The provisions of this act shall apply also to all properties and assets of State rural rehabilitation corporations held by Federal agencies other than the Department of Agriculture under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9070, or otherwise. For the purposes of this act the assets of other corporations, derived through the use of Federal Emergency Relief Administration funds, and made available to them through State rural rehabilitation corporations or otherwise acquired by them for rural rehabilitation purposes, shall be considered as a part of the trust property of the State rural rehabilitation corporations in their respective States.

SEC. 4. For the purposes of this act, the Secretary shall have the power to—

(a) employ on a contract basis (without regard to the provisions of the civil-service laws or the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, but the contract shall in each case specify what civil-service and related laws, if any, shall be applicable to the employment after it has been made) such appraisers, accountants, attorneys, and other personnel as he may deem necessary, in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, to aid in the liquidation and transfer of the properties and assets pursuant to this act, and in the entering into of agreements with the corporations, or other agencies or officials, designated pursuant to section 2 (c) hereof, regarding the rural rehabilitation purposes for which the property and assets shall thereafter be used by them, and in determining that such agreed purposes are being carried out. The fees, salaries, and expenses of such appraisers, accountants, attorneys, and other personnel shall be equitably apportioned by the Secretary among the respective corporations and the amount so determined to be applicable to each such corporation shall be paid by the Secretary from the trust fund of such corporation until the trust is liquidated, and thereafter by the corporation or other agency or official designated pursuant to section 2 (c) hereof. Attorneys so employed, and their fees and expenses, shall be subject to the approval and under the supervision of the Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture;

(b) accept and utilize voluntary and uncompensated services, and, with the consent of the agency concerned, utilize the officers, employees, equipment, and information of any agency of the Federal Government, or of any State, Territory, or political subdivision;

(c) make such rules and regulations and such delegations of authority as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

SEC. 5. None of the properties or assets held on the date of the approval of this act by the Secretary as trustee pursuant to trust agreements with the various State rural rehabilitation corporations may be used by the Secretary for any purpose after the effective date of this act, except for the purposes authorized under section 2 (d) of this act, and for loans made prior to July 1, 1949,

and to be repaid in full no later than May 1, 1952, but otherwise consistent with the provisions of title II of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended (7 U. S. C. A. 1007), where necessary to supplement credit already extended to borrowers from corporation trust funds.

SEC. 6. (a) The determination of the Secretary with respect to the assets to be returned to each State rural rehabilitation corporation or other agency or official designated pursuant to section 2 (c) hereof including, but not limited to interests in properties held jointly for such corporation and the United States, the partition of real property, the expenses incident to each transfer, the liabilities applicable to such properties, and all other phases of the transfer shall be final and conclusive upon each State rural rehabilitation corporation or such successor agency or official designated pursuant to section 2 (c) hereof, and upon all officers and agencies of the United States.

(b) The Secretary shall be saved harmless against any personal liability he may incur in carrying out the provisions of this act

SEC. 7. Section 2 (f) of the act of August 14, 1946 (60 Stat. 1062), is hereby repealed.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR COMPLETION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WORK ON MINING CLAIMS—BILL PASSED OVER

The bill (H. R. 1754) extending the time for the completion of annual assessment work on mining claims held by location in the United States for the year ending at 12 o'clock meridian July 1, 1949, was announced as next in order.

Mr. O'CONOR. Mr. President, inasmuch as certain phases of this bill are under consideration, may I ask that it go to the foot of the calendar?

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the bill will go to the foot of the calendar.

AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACT OF 1944

The bill (S. 1760) to amend section 101 (b) of the Department of Agriculture Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 734; 7 U. S. C. 429), was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 101 (b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 734; 7 U. S. C. 429) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with State authorities and with the authorities of the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico in the administration of regulations for the improvement of poultry, poultry products, and hatcheries."

AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ORGANIC ACT OF 1944

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1749) to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale, which had been reported from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry with an amendment on page 1, line 8, after the word "beetle", to insert "wheat-stem sawfly," so as to make the bill read:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringe beetle, wheat-stem sawfly, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly," immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, wheat-stem sawfly, and the Hall scale."

TEMPORARY DEFERMENT OF ASSESSMENT WORK ON MINING CLAIMS—BILL PASSED OVER

The bill (H. R. 3754) providing for the temporary deferment in certain unavoidable contingencies of annual assessment work on mining claims held by location in the United States was announced as next in order.

Mr. O'CONOR. Mr. President, I ask that the bill go to the foot of the calendar.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will go to the foot of the calendar.

BILL PASSED OVER

The bill (S. 1464) to amend the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act relating to marketing agreements and orders was announced as next in order.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, I ask that this bill go over until the next call of the calendar. I do not know that I shall object to it at the next call.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will be passed over.

MODIFICATION OF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT ON THE HEART RIVER, MANDAN, N. DAK.

The bill (S. 1324) to provide for the modification of the Corps of Engineers flood-control project on the Heart River at Mandan, N. Dak., was announced as next in order.

Mr. HENDRICKSON. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I wonder if we may have a statement of cost in connection with this contemplated modification.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, it would relieve the city of Mandan of a cost of approximately $76,000. The original requirement was much higher than is the case in the usual flood-control project. The Army engineers testified before the Appropriations Committee that over the years this little town of 7,000 persons had suffered damages totaling more than $5,000,000. The average loss and damage since 1943 amounted to $175,000 a year. For the past 3 years and for several years previously the east-west Federal highway has been under water in the town of Mandan for approximately a period of from 10 to 12 days or longer when there has been a flood. There has been water on the main floor of the post office during most of the floods. The city of Mandan is not able to meet the costs. Its levies are limited and its bonds are limited.

Mr. HENDRICKSON. I have no objection.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the bill (S. 1324) was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the project for flood protection at Mandan, N. D., on the Heart River, authorized substantially in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Engineers in House Document No. 294, Seventy-ninth Congress, first session, by the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 641), is hereby modified to provide that the United States shall construct the necessary works and alterations to provide for interior drainage.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGES, IOWA AND ILLINOIS

The bill (S. 1577) to revive and reenact, as amended, the act entiled "An act creating the City of Clinton Bridge Commission and authorizing said commission and its successors to acquire by purchase or condemnation and to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge or bridges across the Mississippi River at or near Clinton, Iowa, and at or near Fulton, Ill., approved December 21, 1944, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the act approved December 21, 1944, authorizing the City of Clinton Bridge Commission to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate a bridge or bridges, including approaches thereto, across the Mississippi River at or near the cities of Clinton, Iowa, and Fulton, Ill., be, and the same is hereby, revived and reenacted: *Provided*, That this act shall be null and void insofar as it authorizes the construction of a bridge or bridges unless the actual construction thereof be commenced within 3 years and completed within 5 years from the date of approval hereof: *And provided further*, That section 5 of said act, approved December 21, 1944, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. The commission and its successors and assigns are hereby authorized to provide for the payment of the cost of such bridge, or bridges as may be acquired, reconstructed, or constructed, as herein provided, and approaches (including the approach highways, which, in the judgment of the commission, it is necessary or advisable to construct or cause to be constructed to provide suitable and adequate connection with existing improved highways) and the necessary land easements and appurtenances thereto, by an issue or issues of negotiable serial bonds of the commission, bearing interest, payable semiannually, at the rate of not more than 6 percent per annum, the principal and interest of which bonds shall be payable solely from the funds provided in accordance with this act, and such payments may be further secured by mortgage of the bridge or bridges. All such bonds may be registered as to principal alone or both principal and interest, shall be payable as to principal within not to exceed 25 years from the date thereof, shall be in such denominations, shall be executed in such manner, and shall be payable in such medium and at such place or places as the commission may determine, and the face amount thereof shall be so calculated as to produce, at the price of their

agents or employees, from any further claim by such claimant arising out of the same incident.

SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROBINSON REMOUNT STATION, CRAWFORD, NEBR.

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 1242) authorizing the transfer of a certain tract of land in the Robinson Remount Station to the city of Crawford, Nebr., and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. TRIMBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that a similar bill (S. 314) authorizing the transfer of a certain tract of land in the Robinson Remount Station to the city of Crawford, Nebr., and for other purposes, be substituted for the House bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to transfer by quitclaim deed to the city of Crawford, Nebr., the following-described tract of land lying within the Robinson Remount Station, Fort Robinson, Dawes County, Nebr.: Beginning at the northwest corner of the tract of land conveyed to the city of Crawford for public-park purposes by the act of Congress approved June 25, 1906 (34 Stat. 461); thence west along the north line of the said station a distance of one thousand one hundred and seventy-five feet; thence south three hundred and six feet; thence south twenty-seven degrees fifty-two minutes east to the westerly boundary line of the present park, the point of intersecion being approximately two thousand six hundred and fifteen feet south of the starting point; thence north two thousand six hundred and fifteen feet to point of beginning, containing an area of approximately forty-three and fifty-seven one-hundredths acres: *Provided,* That the city of Crawford shall pay 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the property as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. Said secretary is hereby authorized to grant to the city of Crawford, Nebr., a permanent easement across the lands of the United States comprising the Robinson Remount Station, Fort Robinson, Dawes County, Nebr., for a pipe line to carry water from the White River to the filters and purification plants of the city, which easement shall include all rights and privileges now enjoyed by the city under a revokable license to maintain such pipe line across such lands of the United States.

SEC. 3. The tract of land authorized to be transferred by the first section of this act shall be used by the grantee for purposes of a public park and recreational site or golf course or for similar and related purposes. If the grantee shall fail or cease to use such tract for such purposes, or shall alienate or attempt to alienate such lands, title thereto shall revert to the United States.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

A similar House bill (H. R. 1242) was laid on the table.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CITRUS BLACKFLY, WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE, AND THE HALL SCALE

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 4263) to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the world "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly" immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. COOLEY: Page 1, line 8, after the word "beetle", insert the words "wheat-stem sawfly, oriental fruitfly."

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RETIREMENT REFUNDS

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 2020) to enable certain former officers or employees of the United States separated from the service subsequent to January 23, 1942, to elect to forfeit their rights to civil-service retirement annuities and to obtain in lieu thereof returns of their contributions with interest.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that an identical Senate bill, S. 1229, be substituted for the House bill.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the last paragraph of section 8 of the Civil Service Retirement Act of May 29, 1930, as amended, is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof a colon and the following: *"Provided,* That any such officer or employee who has completed less than 20 years' civilian service may elect to forfeit his right to such annuity and elect to receive in lieu thereof the amount credited to his individual account together with interest compounded on December 31 of each year at the rate of 4 percent to the date of his separation or December 31, 1947, whichever may be the earlier, and at the rate of 3 percent for any period thereafter before April 1, 1948: *Provided further,* That if the separation of such officer or employee was involuntary, not by removal for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency, the total amount of deductions, with such interest, shall be returned."

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

A similar House bill (H. R. 2020) was laid on the table.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1948 WITH RESPECT TO MARYLAND AND CIGAR-LEAF TYPES OF TOBACCO

The Clerk called the bill (S. 715) to amend the Agricultural Act of 1948.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Mr. RICH. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, this would amend the act. What are we going to do?

Mr. COOLEY. Mr Speaker, a similar bill has already passed providing for an extension of the support prices on tobacco. There is a statement in the report which reads as follows:

The extension of the date from June 30, 1950, to September 30, 1950, is necessary if the support prices for the 1949 crops of Maryland and cigar-leaf types of tobacco are to be available during the entire marketing season. The marketing season for other kinds of tobacco will have ended by June 30. The extension of the price-support authority under this bill until September 30, 1950, will provide for Maryland and cigar-leaf types of tobacco the same treatment as that accorded to other kinds of tobacco.

Mr. RICH. Mr. Speaker, we are supporting the prices on various commodities—now its tobacco. Just how much of a support price will this give to the tobacco growers over and above what the legislation now on the statute books calls for?

Mr. COOLEY. It does not change the support price at all. Maryland tobacco is marketed during a different season and a longer season than other types of tobacco. Most tobacco markets close by June 30th, but the Maryland market is a little different.

Mr. RICH. Are we changing the rates?

Mr. COOLEY. No; it does not change anything except the date "June 30th" is changed to "September 30, 1950."

Mr. RICH. It is not going to cost the Government anything to do that unless some of the tobacco is held over, then they get the subsidy later on?

Mr. COOLEY. Not a subsidy. In other words, if the tobacco could all be marketed by June 30 there would be no necessity for this bill, but since a large part of the crop is marketed after June 30 it would not be fair to have a support price for one tobacco as of one date and another for another tobacco.

Mr. RICH. What is the support price?

Mr. COOLEY. The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. SASSCER] can advise what it is on Maryland tobacco. I do not know what it is.

Mr. SASSCER. I may say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania it is around 43 or 44 cents. Our market is considerably above the support price. As suggested a moment ago, this bill does not change the base or the rate. As will be recalled, last year in the extension bill, the Hope-Aiken bill, there was a consolidation in the conference report and it is necessary to pass this legislation because our crop is unusual. It is harvested in 1 year, then it is hung up in barns and marketed the next year. The southern crops are marketed in the same

year as harvested. All this does is to extend the marketing period of 3 months. Under existing law it ends on June 1 unless raised in that year. This extends it 3 months.

Mr. RICH. If you are marketing the tobacco and getting more than the support price, what is the use of passing this law?

Mr. SASSCER. It helps hold the price up.

Mr. RICH. In other words, the support price has a tendency to keep prices up?

Mr. SASSCER. That is it.

Mr. RICH. Mr. Speaker, the President said last year that the Democrats helped raise the price of farmers' commodities, we helped raise the price of labor. In other words that the Democrats raised the price of labor and helped the farmer, but the Republicans were responsible for high prices. Did you ever hear of such a ridiculous statement? Now, I am a Republican and I want to get the prices down, and I do not think that you ought to do this. If you are not gaining anything by it, then let the prices come down so that the public will get some benefit. We, as Republicans, ought to object to this legislation, and I think we ought to do it right now.

Mr. SASSCER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, probably I have not made myself clear. This does not change the existing law at all. Under the present law crops raised in 1950 get this support price under the so-called Aiken bill. Under the present law crops raised in 1949—we market ours a year late; this applies to this year's crop—have the support price through June 1. June 1 was arbitrarily taken because all the crops are normally marketed by that time. I understand there are about four places, Wisconsin, Minnesota, one other northern State, and Maryland, whose market is not over by June 1. Our market is running now, and if this extension is not granted—of course, we are alright for this year—next year the support price would end with only about three-fourths of the market over.

Mr. RICH. Will this cost the Federal Government any money? If it does, I object.

Mr. SASSCER. I would not think so; no, sir.

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, it could not cost the Federal Government any money as long as this tobacco is selling above the support price. It has been selling substantially above the support price and is now selling above the support price. But, the thing about it, and what we are trying to correct, is that under the situation we now have about two-thirds of the farmers would have the benefit of the support price and the other third would be denied the benefit because they were unable to sell their crops before June 30. This bill was very carefully considered in our committee by Republicans and Democrats, and there was a unanimous report.

Mr. RICH. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection since it will not cost the Government anything.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 1 (a) of title I of the Agricultural Act of 1948 (Public Law 897, 80th Cong.) is amended by inserting, following the date "June 30, 1950,", a parenthetical clause reading as follows: "(September 30, 1950, in the case of Maryland and the cigar-leaf types of tobacco)."

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OBSERVANCE OF PATRICK HENRY WEEK

The Clerk called the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 12) authorizing the President to proclaim the week in which June 6, 1949, occurs as Patrick Henry Week in commemoration of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the death of Patrick Henry.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

Resolved, etc., That the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the week in which June 6, 1949, occurs as Patrick Henry Week, inviting the people of the United States to observe such week, and particularly the day, June 6, 1949, as the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the death of Patrick Henry, in accordance with their religious faith, with appropriate ceremonies which will serve to recall his great contribution to the cause of our national independence and to the establishment of the liberties of the people of the United States.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMORIAL DAY FOR BRIG. GEN. CASIMIR PULASKI

The Clerk called the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 241) authorizing the President of the United States of America to proclaim October 11 of each year General Pulaski's Memorial Day for the observance and commemoration of the death of Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

Resolved, etc., That the President of the United States is authorized and directed to issue a proclamation calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all governmental buildings on October 11 of each year, and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies in commemoration of the death of General Casimir Pulaski.

With the following amendment:

Page 1, line 6, strike out "of each year" and insert "1949."

The committee amendment was agreed to.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SADLAK] may be permitted to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. SADLAK. Mr. Speaker, I want heartily to commend and to congratulate the gentleman from Delaware. We are, all of us, aware that a goodly number of bills was introduced in this session of Congress proclaiming October 11 as General Casimir Pulaski's Memorial Day. Included among this number was also a resolution introduced by me for the same purpose.

It cannot be said that we are slow to recognize the great service that General Pulaski had rendered this country. We are most anxious, in fact, to express our gratitude and to memorialize the deeds of this great man.

It pleases me immensely to see that this legislation, House Joint Resolution 241, introduced by my esteemed colleague from the Diamond State is now before this body. No less deligated am I that the Committee on the Judiciary saw fit to report out this particular measure. In every respect it is a highly desirable situation which I am sure can only result in all around satisfaction.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "Joint resolution authorizing the President of the United States of America to proclaim October 11, 1949, General Pulaski's Memorial Day for the observance and commemoration of the death of Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO REGULATE AND IMPROVE THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 3826) to amend the act of January 16, 1883, an act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States.

Mr. BYRNES of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 16 OF HAWAIIAN ORGANIC ACT

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 4000) to amend section 16 of the Hawaiian Organic Act relative to disqualification of legislators.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 16 of the Hawaiian Organic Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. Disqualification of legislators: That no member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he is elected, be appointed or elected to any office of the Territory of Hawaii, except as otherwise provided by the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii."

With the following committee amendments:

Page 1, line 8, after "Territory of", strike out "Hawaii, except as otherwise provided by the Legislature of the Territory of."

Line 9, after "Hawaii", insert a colon and the following: "*Provided*, That nothing in this act shall prevent a member of the legislature from serving as a delegate to a constitutional convention."

Mr. HENDRICKSON. My colleague's statement is as follows:

Mr. President, it is a great regret to me that I am unable to be present in person in the Senate to pay tribute to a distinguished American. But through the courtesy of my colleague from New Jersey, Senator HENDRICKSON, I desire to make this brief statement:

I am advised that in the near future Mr. Howard Bruce, of Baltimore, Md., will retire as Deputy Administrator of the ECA. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that the Hoffman-Bruce team, in setting up the ECA in its initial stages, rendered an outstanding patriotic service to America and made a notable contribution to the stabilization of a troubled world.

Howard Bruce made a dstinguished military contribution during the war through his procurement services for the African campaign and for the final drive to victory. For this he has been honored by a grateful Government. But his contribution to the peace has been no less significant, and I know all who are familiar with the details of the operation share the view that the vision and drive of Howard Bruce had as much to do as any other single factor in making the ECA a brilliant going concern from the very beginning.

I am happy to pay this tribute to a great American as he retires to private life.

Mr. President, of course, it gives me genuine pleasure to join my colleague in this well-deserved tribute.

Mr. O'CONOR. Mr. President, in line with the statement just made by the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, I desire to invite the attention of the Senate to the splendid service rendered by the distinguished public servant, the Deputy Administrator of the ECA, Mr. Howard Bruce, of Baltimore, Md., who for many years has been a leader in the civic and industrial life of Maryland, and who made a contribution to the war effort which I am sure few heroes of the war could surpass.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a statement I have prepared regarding Mr. Bruce, immediately following the statement just made by the Senator from New Jersey.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT BY SENATOR O'CONOR

One of the saving graces of democracy, history would indicate, is that in every hour of stress and emergency, there are at hand men of loyalty and of exceptional qualifications and abilities who are ready and willing to devote themselves unselfishly to service of their country.

In view of the impending retirement from his high Government post, as Deputy Administrator of ECA, after outstanding service to his country, during the emergency of war, and more lately, in the critical efforts to rebuild the world economy, of Howard Bruce, one of Maryland's distinguished citizens, I think we would be remiss if official recognition were not given to one so richly deserving.

Mr. Bruce, for many years a leader in the industrial and civic progress of Maryland, made a contribution to the war effort during World War II which I am sure few heroes of the armed forces could have surpassed. Far beyond the age for volunteering for active service in the armed forces, he put himself at the disposal of his country in the one post where his exceptional organizational ability and his outstanding leadership could be best utilized—that is, in the function of assuring to our fighting men all over the world a continuing and adequate supply of all the things they needed for victory.

As director of material in the Army service forces, Mr. Bruce labored diligently and successfully to keep the supplies of armaments and the other thousand and one necessities of war rolling to all the far corners of the world. For his efforts a grateful country awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal, the outstanding honor that could be conferred upon a civilian.

His war services concluded, Mr. Bruce retired, supposedly to the enjoyments of comparative leisure. But his country's need for him was not yet ended. When the Marshall plan became a reality and the tedious details of setting up the Economic Cooperation Administration were faced, Mr. Bruce's brilliant record of achievement for the armed forces singled him out as the man who could best assist the Administrator for ECA, Mr. Hoffman, to whip this vital organization into being in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Bruce, with his unfailing devotion to his country's cause, responded nobly and has been a bulwark of strength and support to the ECA during the all-important months since its inception.

In Mr. Bruce's own words, he agreed to do a job with ECA, with the understanding that when the job was finished, his services could be dispensed with. Now, with ECA firmly established and functioning as a few believed it ever would be able to function in so short a time, Mr. Bruce feels that he could give way to a younger man without detriment to the Nation's interests.

Those of us who have known Mr. Bruce well throughout the years, and have been familiar with his most unusual capacity for organization, are no more surprised by his achievements with ECA than we were at his contribution to the war effort. Such services as he has given, however, though they be offered with the utmost readiness and willingness, are not to be taken lightly. Mr. Bruce has twice forsaken his own private interests to serve his country as few men could have done. He deserves to be acclaimed as an American of exceptional stature. He merits the wholehearted gratitude not only of every Member of Congress and of the Government but of every one of his fellow citizens throughout this great country.

CONTROL OF CITRUS BLACKFLY AND OTHER PESTS

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma. Mr. President, on May 23 the Senate passed Senate bill 1749, relating to the control of certain fruitflies. On the 6th of this month the House passed its bill, House bill 4263, an identical bill save in one particular. The House bill adds the pest called the oriental fruitfly. Otherwise the two bills are the same. I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of House bill 4263.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Oklahoma?

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, may the title of the bill be stated?

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill will be stated by title for the information of the Senate.

The bill (H. R. 4263) to amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale was read twice by its title.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, I am sorry to say that I did not hear the explanation of the Senator from Oklahoma, because I was carrying on a conversation. I am not a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. I should like to ask if this bill has the unanimous approval of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma. Mr. President, the Senate passed an identical bill, save in one particular. The House bill adds the pest called the Oriental fruit fly, in addition to those listed in the Senate bill. I communicated with the Department of Agriculture, and the Department is hopeful that the additional pest known as the Oriental fruit fly may be included in the bill. That is the only difference.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. In the opinion of the Senator from Oklahoma, who is chairman of the committee, is that a proper addition?

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma. I would not know an Oriental fruit fly if I saw one; but I am making the request on the strength of the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. And it will not cost the Government too much more money?

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma. I cannot answer that question. If it did, I think it would be justified.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senate passed a bill and sent it to the House, and the House acted on its own bill instead of on the Senate bill.

Is there objection to the present consideration of House bill 4263?

There being no objection, the bill was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

TEMPORARY DEFERMENT OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENT WORK ON CERTAIN MINING CLAIMS—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. O'MAHONEY submitted the following conference report:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 3754) providing for the temporary deferment in certain unavoidable contingencies of annual assessment work on mining claims held by location in the United States, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendment numbered 1.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 2, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment insert the following: *"Provided further,* That the relief available under this Act is in addition to any relief available under any other Act of Congress with respect to mining claims"; and agree to the same.

Amendment numbered 3: That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate numbered 3, and agree to the same with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment insert the following: "Notwithstanding the provisions of any Act of Congress to the contrary, any person who hereafter prospects for, mines, or removes by strip or open pit mining methods, any minerals from any land included in a stock raising or other homestead entry or

patent, and who had been liable under such an existing Act only for damages caused thereby to the crops or improvements of the entryman or patentee, shall also be liable for any damage that may be caused to the value of the land for grazing by such prospecting for, mining, or removal of minerals. Nothing in this section shall be considered to impair any vested right in existence on the effective date of this section"; and the Senate agree to the same.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill and agree to the same.

JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY,
JAMES E. MURRAY,
E. D. MILLIKIN,
GUY CORDON,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

CLAIR ENGLE,
KEN REGAN,
WM. LEMKE,
Managers on the Part of the House.

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the conference report. There is no controversy over the report.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the conference report?

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, has this report been signed by all the Senate conferees?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. It has.

Mr. SALTONSTALL. And is it a unanimous report?

Mr. O'MAHONEY. On the part of the Senate conferees, it is.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the conference report?

There being no objection, the report was considered, and agreed to.

CONTINUATION OF VIRGIN ISLANDS COMPANY

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of Calendar No. 470, House bill 2989, a bill to incorporate the Virgin Islands Corporation, and for other purposes.

This bill, passed by the House, was not accepted by the Senate committee. The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, after extensive hearings, decided that instead of creating a new corporation we should grant an extension of the old corporation for 2 years, thereby giving opportunity to members of the committees of both Houses to visit the Virgin Islands. This amendment was unanimously recommended by the subcommittee which held hearings. The distinguished senior Senator from Nebraska [Mr. BUTLER] was a member of the subcommittee. It was then unanimously approved by the full committee.

The present corporation expires on the 30th of June. For that reason it is very important that this bill go to conference at the earliest possible date. That is the only reason why I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the bill.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Wyoming asks unanimous consent that the unfinished business be temporarily laid aside, and that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a bill which will be stated by title.

The LEGISLATIVE CLERK. A bill (H. R. 2989) to incorporate the Virgin Islands Corporation, and for other purposes.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Wyoming?

Mr. TAFT. Mr. President, I must enter an objection. During the pendency of the labor bill, I do not think we can consider other bills. This particular bill is not printed. It is not in the books. There is no report. As a matter of principle, I do not think that we can permit bills of that kind to be taken up when there is any question at all. I think there is some question to be discussed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill was reported day before yesterday, and is available.

Mr. TAFT. It is not in the books.

Mr. CORDON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. TAFT. I yield.

Mr. CORDON. I express the hope that the Senator from Ohio will withdraw his objection in this instance. We have a situation in which time is of the essence. I recognize the validity of an objection predicated upon lack of time at least to look over a bill. I hope the Senator from Ohio will accept the word of those of us who have worked on the bill.

The bill represents only a continuance of the status quo in a manner which is vital to the every-day living of most of the people on one of the Virgin Islands. It is absolutely essential that if any action be had, it be had at the earliest possible moment. We have differed with the House to the extent that we feel we need more time to look into the proposal of the House for a permanent corporation in the Virgin Islands. We seek only to maintain the status quo of the present company, which owns, among other things, a sugar mill and a rum factory, and employs the greater number of the employed persons on St. Croix. The life of the corporation will expire unless we continue it; and unless we can get action on this bill in time for the conference, the life of the corporation will be extinguished by operation of law.

Mr. TAFT. Mr. President, I cannot see what possible harm could be done by putting it over until Monday. All I know about the situation is that I have letters on my desk protesting against any continuation. I have not looked into the question, and do not know anything about it. The bill is not before us, and the report is not available. If the corporation is to last until June 30, I cannot see why the bill cannot go over until Monday or Tuesday, so that we may have an opportunity to take a look at it. I would not continue to object if I should find no good ground for objection, but I feel that the bill should not be passed at this time. I assure the Senator from Wyoming that I will withdraw my objection unless it materializes into something very substantial. However, I should like to have an opportunity to look into the question.

Mr. O'MAHONEY. Mr. President, I invite the attention of the Senator to the fact that the bill as reported, and the report, are both printed and available. If they are not in the Senator's file, it is merely because they have not been distributed.

I trust that later in the day, after the Senator from Ohio has had an opportunity to examine the bill and the report, I may renew the request.

Mr. KERR subsequently said: Mr. President, House bill 2989, to incorporate the Virgin Islands Corpmpany, and for other purposes, was referred to a little earlier in the session today by the senior Senator from Wyoming [Mr. O'MAHONEY], and on the basis of his request I ask that the bill be considered at this time, with the belief that the objections have been withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER [Mr. HENDRICKSON in the chair]. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Oklahoma?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs with an amendment, to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That, nothwithstanding the provisions of the Government Corporation Control Act of 1945 on any other provision of law, the Virgin Islands Company shall continue as an agency of the United States until (a) the close of business on June 30, 1951, or (b) the date of the creation of a corporation pursuant to an act of Congress to continue the company's primary functions, whichever is earlier, and until such time shall possess all powers conferred upon it by the Virgin Islands Company Act of 1934, enacted by the Colonial Council for St. Thomas and St. John on April 9, 1934.

SEC. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Virgin Islands Company for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950, such sums, not in excess of $1,275,960, as may be required for its operation, including expenditures for the repair and necessary replacements of the sugar cane grinding facilities owned and operated by the said company.

The amendment was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "An act to continue the Virgin Islands Company as an agency of the United States."

Mr. KERR. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendments, ask for a conference with the House thereon, and that the Chair appoint the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to; and the Presiding Officer appointed Mr. KERR, Mr. O'MAHONEY, Mr. MILLER, Mr. BUTLER, and Mr. CORDON conferees on the part of the Senate.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. BRIDGES. Mr. President, there appeared in the Saturday Evening Post of June 11, 1949, a very interesting and appealing editorial entitled "The GOP Must Stay Awake on Foreign Policy."

Personally I feel that the American people should be grateful to the Saturday Evening Post for the editorial, and that its suggestions should be heeded. Some of us have made the same suggestions before, in both general and specific terms. There are many of us who are

[PUBLIC LAW 106—81ST CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 220—1ST SESSION]

[H. R. 4263]

AN ACT

To amend section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations to combat the citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, and the Hall scale.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 102 (a) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (Act of September 21, 1944, 58 Stat. 735; 7 U. S. C. 147a (a)) be amended by deleting the word "and" immediately following the word "borer"; by adding a comma and the words "citrus blackfly, white-fringed beetle, wheat-stem sawfly, Oriental fruitfly, and Hall scale" between the word "weevil" and the immediately following colon; and by adding the words "citrus blackfly" immediately following the comma after the word "fruitflies" in the proviso.

Approved June 17, 1949.

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